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HISTORY

OF

RHEDI,

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.



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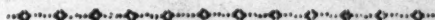
T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
R H E D I,

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT:

A N
O R I E N T A L T A L E.

Written by Mr. MACKENZIE,

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Julia de Roubigne, &c.



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T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F

R H E D I,

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

 N the reign of our sovereign lord Almalek, of which historians have not fixed the commencement or the period, Amur Aslan Khan, descended from one of the most illustrious families of Persia, obtained the government of Ghilan, as the reward of his approved fidelity and virtue. Under the administration of Amur, the balance of justice was suspended with an equal poise betwixt poor and rich; the scourge was wrested from the hand of oppression; honest industry received, and enjoyed in security, its well earned

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reward;



reward; and the wants of the necessitous poor were supplied by the overflowings of his bounty. In Amur, learning and ingenuity found a consummate judge and a munificent patron; virtue reared her fearless head under the protection of his sheltering arm; and vice fled like the shades of night, before the approach of dawn, from the lightning of his eye. The afflicted widow derived consolation from the sympathy of his heart, and the beneficence of his conduct; and the helpless orphan, rejoicing in the diffusion of his liberality, regarded him as a second parent, and implored that a tenfold return might be made to him of the blessings he bestowed.

Yet Amur, endowed as he was by nature with a humanity and benevolence of disposition, united with an uncorruptible integrity of heart, which he had cultivated by discipline, and improved by habit, was not exempted from the stroke of affliction, or the shafts of calumny, from the arrow that flieth in secret, or from the sudden blast of unforeseen destruction, that razes all the ideal structures of happiness which fancy hath reared, from the foundation.

At the same time that Amur Aslan Khan enjoyed the government of Ghilan, Askeri Khan, whose character was in every respect a contrast to that of Amur, presided over the neighbouring province of Attirbutzan. The heart of Askeri perpetually boiled with selfish and malignant passions, which brooded over it, as the noisome vapours that rise from the fens of Babylon hover above the marshes from which they are exhaled. The superior merit and growing reputation of Amur had been long objects of jealousy and envy to Askeri, whose little soul shrunk from the effulgence of the character of his rival, as the night birds, that haunt the ruined domes of Persopolis, shrink from the

the splendor of the luminary of day. Askeri, naturally cruel and malicious, was likewise dark, cunning, and deceitful; and despairing to emulate the character of his rival, as well as unwilling to attempt it, he basely resolved to throw the stains of slander and reproach on a character, whose lustre discovered to him the foulness and deformity of his own, and served at once both to confound and upbraid him.

As the means of accomplishing the designs of craft and villany are seldom wanting to those who have once formed them, an occasion soon presented itself, of executing the wicked purposes which his heart had for some time meditated.

Nasr Ali Beg, nephew to Askeri, and whose character was in most respects similar to that of his uncle, having, by a fraudulent conveyance, obtained a disposition to an estate in the province of Ghilan, which was acquired by rapine and extortion, Amur, before whose tribunal the cause was pleaded, set aside the claim, both of Nasr and the nearest heir, upon a clear proof of its having been unjustly acquired, and confiscated the whole for the use of the Sophy. Nasr, disappointed and irritated at a sentence, which, however just in itself, precluded the views of his unfair policy, and prevented the gratification of his sordid avarice, represented the affair to his uncle Askeri; and both of them, actuated by sentiments of the greatest malignity towards Amur, concurred in suborning witnesses to swear, that he had given in a false estimate of the estate, and had appropriated the greatest part of it to his own use. Having gained over the Visier, Aman Ola, a man of a most flagitious character, to their interest, by promising to share the spoil with him, they forged an artful and plausible tale, which some of their own creatures, allured by largesses, engaged to support, and presented it to the Sophy, in the

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from

form of an accusation or complaint against the governor; in consequence of which a royal mandate was immediately issued for apprehending Amur, and for bringing him before the tribunal of the Sophy of Persia, to answer to the accusation brought against him by Nasr Ali Beg, of his having defrauded him of an estate, which had been bequeathed to him by a relation, and of his having secured the greatest part of it to himself, while he pretended to sequester it, upon the plea of its being unjustly acquired, for the benefit of the Sophy.

Gurgi Khān, a friend of Amur, who resided at Jopakan, having got intelligence of what was transacting to his prejudice, immediately sent off an express with a letter, to inform him of his danger; who, travelling day and night, arrived at Ghilan two days before the guard was sent on purpose to apprehend Amur. When the courier arrived, the governor was in company with Almerine his wife, and Mouli a Turkish Merchant, who had come to Ghilan with several bales of goods he brought for sale, and with whom he had contracted an intimate friendship. Amur, whose mind was firm as the promontory that repels the waves in the gulf of Ormus, was astonished, but not terrified, at the intimation he had received; and, conscious of his innocence, determined at first, at all hazards, to vindicate his conduct. When Almerine and Mouli, however, were informed of the contents of the letter, alarmed with apprehensions for the fate of Amur, they joined in earnest intreaties that he would provide for his safety by flight, in which they proposed to accompany him, carrying along with them his only son, Riza Couli, a boy about ten years of age, and of a very promising genius, and two or three servants, with as many camels, loaded with their most valuable effects. Mouli proposed that they should all together direct their course towards Aleppo, where he resided

resided, and where he assured them of a safe retreat, and of a hospitable reception. Amur, regarding his flight as in some measure inconsistent with the heroism and intrepidity of his character, and thinking it might be construed into a tacit acquiescence in the charge brought against him by his enemies, appeared extremely reluctant to comply with the solicitations of Almerine and Mouli; but an old domestic, who was named Mansur, and who had been long in his service, though he was then in the family of Askeri, having wrote him a letter, which came to his hand at that instant, informing him of all particulars of the plot that had been contrived against him, he complied at last with the importunity of his friends, and instantly prepared for setting out with all possible expedition.

Amur having left a paper for the perusal of the Sophy, containing a vindication of his conduct, and an account of the reasons of his flight, began his journey, with his friend and little family; in about two hours after, for the city of Aleppo. As they set out in the night, and travelled for some time with the utmost dispatch, they arrived by day-light at a small cottage on the extremity of the province of Attirbutzan, where they got a little refreshment, and taking their rout through Shirwart, they proceeded on their journey, by the most unfrequented roads, towards mount Ararat intending to pass over that mountain, and thence through Armenia to Aleppo. After travelling six days with all the possible expedition they were capable of, they arrived at the foot of that part of the mount which is covered with wood; and as they were properly armed for defending themselves against the wild beasts, in case they should be attacked, and imagined that by travelling through the wood, they would be in less hazard of being discovered, they entered it without further deliberation, and following a winding path which pointed out their course, they came to a small opening, where the

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pasturage

pasturage being good for their camels, they resolved to repose and refresh themselves a little, after the fatigue they had undergone.

During this interval, a fatal accident happened, which plunged them all in the deepest distress, and almost overwhelmed even the soul of Amur with a weight of misery, which the utmost exertion of his reason and fortitude could scarce enable him to sustain. Riza Couli, his son, having wandered a little into the wood from the rest of the company, for his amusement, and happening to penetrate into the thickest part of the forest, where he lost his way, was observed by a wild boar, who rushing upon him furiously, tore the unhappy child to pieces on the spot. His screams however were heard by the rest, and his father and Mouli starting up in a wild transport of amazement and horror, flew in an instant to the place from which the screams seemed to proceed; but before they arrived, the savage monster had destroyed the child, whom, scared from his prey by the sudden appearance of Amur and Mouli, he left miserably mangled, and on the point of expiring. Amur seeing the body of his dear Riza Couli thus cruelly torn, and all bathed in blood, was transfixed with horror and agony at the spectacle, and falling prostrate on the earth, he groaned with inexpressible anguish, beating his breast, and looking towards heaven, as if he accused Providence on account of the severity of its dispensations. Almerine having by this time come up, and having had a glimpse of the bloody corps of her son, uttered a wild and doleful shriek, and fainted away in the arms of the servants who attended her. When she had recovered from the swoon into which she had fallen, she pierced the air with her cries, and embracing the mangled body of her child, intreated him to answer her, as if he had heard her call. Mouli, deeply affected with the pathetic scene which was

was exhibited before him, expressed the strongest sympathy with this much afflicted pair, and did all in his power to sooth and comfort them under their distress. As he perceived, however, that all his endeavours would be ineffectual, while the object that excited and renewed their grief was before their eyes, he resolved to prepare for the interment of the unfortunate Riza Couli; and having, with the assistance of the servants, dug a grave on the spot, they went in order to take up the corpse, and inter it in the grave which they had digged. Almerine knowing their intention, clung to the body of her dear child, as if she was resolved not to be separated from him; but Amur, whose feelings were as strong as those of Almerine, though they were more under the controul of reason, seconding the endeavours of Mouli, they at last, partly by intreaties and expostulations, and partly by force, loosed him from her embraces; and Amur, with a heart overwhelmed with sorrow, paid the last debt to the unhappy Riza, by consigning him to the dust. After performing this melancholy office, Mouli proposed that they should immediately leave a place that suggested so many mournful ideas, which Amur readily agreed to, and having ordered the servants to get the camels in readiness, they dragged Almerine with difficulty from the spot where her Riza Couli was buried, and proceeded on their journey with bursting hearts.

After travelling several miles in the path in which they had set out, they came to a delightful lawn in the middle of the wood, through which there glided a transparent stream, that took its rise from a neighbouring mountain, and rushing through several rocks, that were half discovered through the trees at a little distance, and seemed as it were jagged and scooped out by the fall of the water, formed a variety of natural cascades, which, by their murmuring and dashing

dashing against the rocks, pleased the ear, and invited to repose. In the upper end of the meadow; on a small eminence, they espied a grotto, which nature herself seemed to have dug out of the rock that overshadowed it, but which the hand of art appeared to have improved, and to have rendered more commodious and agreeable. On each side of the grotto there grew a large spreading tree, whether planted by the hand of art or nature is uncertain, which rendered the appearance of the place altogether more pleasing and picturesque; and while they contributed to its coolness, during the scorching heats of summer, they likewise served to screen it from the piercing blasts of winter. While Amur was looking around him on a scene that, in spite of dismal ideas which possessed his mind, in some degree attracted his attention, he observed a person towards the decline of life, of a venerable but melancholy aspect, approaching towards him. His hair was silvered, partly by the hand of time, and partly by the pangs of sorrow he had often felt; gentle benignity and tender pity beaming in his eye, and regarding each of them alternately, with a look of complacency that bespoke the humanity of his soul, and which inspired confidence, at the same time that it excited sentiments of gratitude and affection in the minds of his guests; "Welcome, my children," said he, "to this humble but hospitable roof. Here opulence displays not her costly furniture; nor does the hand of luxury spread forth her dainties, in order to pamper the sated appetite; but; simplicity prepares the moderate repast, and exercise and health, peace and innocence, render it tasteful. Enter therefore this lowly dwelling, and repose yourselves on yonder mossy couch," pointing to a seat in the back of the grotto, "while I set before you such entertainment as this cot affords." He then brought them some excellent

excellent milk and cheese, together with dates and pistacio nuts, of which they made a temperate meal, thanking their benevolent host for his kindness and hospitality. After the calls of hunger were satisfied, the stranger who had welcomed them to the delightful solitude, actuated by that sympathy of soul which usually distinguishes those to whom suffering had been familiar, expressed by his looks an earnest desire to be acquainted with the history of his unknown guests; and regarding each of them attentively, one after another, his eye rested upon Amur, on whom he gazed with a steadfast look of mournful sympathy, as if he read his misfortunes in his countenance. The sympathetic soul of Amur was affected in the same manner; his feelings entirely corresponded to those of this unknown person; he gazed on him with equal steadiness, and, swallowed up as his mind was in the contemplation of his own misfortunes, the expression of his countenance indicated a strong desire to be informed of the accidents in the life of a man whose appearance had so much arrested his attention. They continued for some time looking at each other with expressive silence, till at last the stranger, addressing himself to Amur, "Son of affliction," said he, "I perceive, from thy dejected air, and
" the traits of melancholy which grief hath im-
" printed on the countenance of thee and thy
" companions, that the angel of adversity has laid
" his chastening hand upon you, and that you
" have been made to drink of the bitter cup of
" calamity. Let thy benignity and candour ex-
" cuse a wish, which not an impertinent curiosity,
" but the deep-felt interest I take in your misfor-
" tunes, hath excited, to know your history,
" and in particular the cause of that sadness which
" weighs down thy soul. I myself have been
" injured to misfortune, and from my own experi-
" ence have learnt to feel the misfortunes of
" others;

“others; and though it may not be in the power
“of a fellow mortal to relieve thee from the
“pressure of affliction, yet that Being, who sends
“afflictions upon the children of men for the
“wisest purposes, may enable me to pour the
“balm of sympathy and consolation into thy
“wounded heart; for sympathy is grateful to the
“soul of the sufferer, as the sound of a murmur-
“ing stream is grateful to the ear of the parched
“traveller climbing the summit of mount Tau-
“rus.”—“May Allah,” replied Amur, “second
“the kind and benevolent wishes which I know
“have arisen in thy sympathetic heart towards
“those to whom thou canst only be attached by
“the tie of mutual calamity! And may he re-
“store both to us and you that serenity and com-
“fort which he alone is able to bestow! The
“cup of affliction, as thou supposest, has indeed
“been poured out to us; and I guess, from thy
“looks, that thou hast likewise drunk largely of
“the bitter draught. In the mean time,” added
Amur, “I will readily comply with the wish thou
“hast expressed, which I know proceeds from the
“tender interest thou takest in our sufferings, in
“hopes that thou wilt likewise, in thy turn, gra-
“tify the desire that I feel to be made acquainted
“with the history of thy misfortunes, a desire
“which is dictated by a familiar sensation.”

Amur then having informed him, that the lady
whom he saw with him was his wife, and that
Mouli, whom he pointed to, was his friend, gave
him an account of his name, family, and place of a-
bode; acquainted him of the office he had enjoyed
of governor of Ghilan; of the plots of his enemies
to effectuate his ruin; of the success of their
schemes; and of the resolution he had taken to
abandon his native country, and retire to Aleppo,
with his little family, under the conduct of his
friend Mouli, who had advised their flight, and
invited

invited him and his family to pass their life with him; concluding with an account of the fatal accident which had befallen his son Riza Couli, his last and only hope.

After he had ended his relation, the stranger looking on Amur and Almerine with fixed and mournful attention, "Your sufferings," said he, "my friends, have indeed been great, but mine have been still more severe, and the rod of affliction hath been laid upon me with a heavy hand." Amur then, in the name of himself and his friends, respectfully asked the courteous stranger whose appearance had so much interested them in his fate, to favour them with the history of his life and misfortunes. "I will readily comply with your desire," replied he; "but if it be agreeable to you," added he, "we will repair to yonder grove, which, as it is the scene of the most melancholy and affecting incidents of my life, may possibly aid my relation, by recalling those incidents more vividly to my remembrance, and may enable me more strongly and feelingly to discribe the calamities of my life which have made an impression upon my heart that can never be obliterated." They immediately walked to the grove to which he pointed, and having seated themselves, the stranger fixing his eye upon a spot in the center of it, covered with green turf, heaved a deep-felt sigh; then looking mournfully on the persons who were eagerly expecting his relation, he began the history of his life in the following manner.

"The wretch whom you see before you is Rhedi, the son of Abusaid, one of the chief beglerbeks * of the province of Carimania. My father, who was possessed of an ample

* The name by which the Persians distinguish their nobility.

"fortune

“ fortune by inheritance, and had greatly augmented that fortune by a frugal but decent œconomy, resolved to spare no expence in my education; and after having provided me with the ablest masters in the kingdom, for instructing me in the learning of the East, in which I had made considerable progress, he determined, in order that I might acquire the most valuable arts and sciences of other nations, to send me into Europe, under the tuition of Abulfeda, an intimate friend of my father, and a man of great learning and abilities, which, added to his extensive knowledge of the world, derived from his long residence in foreign courts, rendered him one of the most accomplished men in the empire. At the same time that my father neglected no means of improving my mind in useful knowledge, he was desirous of attaching my affections to a young lady, whose name was Abbassah, of considerable beauty and merit, of an opulent fortune, and daughter to Savi Mustapha, one of the nobles of the province. He was the more solicitous to accomplish this, as I was his only child, my mother having died while I was very young; and as my father was still a widower, and seemed determined to continue such, he wished, on these accounts, to see me engaged in an agreeable connection by marriage, that might give him the hopes of the propagation of his name and family. But though I was now in the twentieth year of my age, the glance of beauty had not yet seduced my affections, nor had love kindled up his flame in my heart; whether it was, that an uninterrupted application to my studies, accompanied with a certain pensive turn of mind, which is often unfavourable to the dominion of the softer passions, had as yet preserved my heart easy and tranquil; or whether it was, that the Persian ladies possessed not charms
“ striking

“ striking and expressive enough to arrest my affections, I was never captivated by any of them
“ to such a degree as to endanger my happiness or peace. When my father observed that
“ I was in a great measure indifferent to the attractions and blandishments of the fair sex, he
“ desisted from pushing his project any farther at present, than by giving insinuations of what he
“ wished might be brought about; adding, that
“ though he was extremely desirous of my being married to Abbassah, yet he would not, in a
“ matter in which the whole comfort of my future life was concerned, abuse his parental authority so far, as to impose a constraint upon
“ my inclinations, but would allow me to follow
“ the natural bent and operation of my own passions, in their future developement, under the
“ controul of reason and reflection, as their surest guides, to whose dictates, he said, from the experience he had already had of my conduct,
“ he was confident, that both in selecting and determining the objects of my choice, I would
“ always shew a proper regard. This declaration of my father excited the strongest sentiments of filial respect, gratitude, and affection in my mind. I told him, that I was deeply penetrated with a sense of his goodness and
“ condescension; that whenever I should think of the connexion he had recommended, I would
“ endeavour to make such a choice as to justify the confidence he had reposed in me, but that
“ at present I could not help being of opinion, that till my education was completed, and I
“ had returned from my travels, it would be in every respect most eligible that my heart continued free, since attachments of the kind he
“ was desirous of my contracting could not fail to obstruct my progress in the studies in which I
“ was engaged. My father, satisfied with these reasons, contented himself with giving me a
“ caution,

“ caution, to beware of fixing my affections rash-
“ ly, as he was persuaded that at my return, both
“ my judgment and inclinations would induce me
“ to co-operate with his views; and gave imme-
“ diate orders for every thing to be got ready
“ for my departure. Though I burned with an
“ eager curiosity to see foreign countries, of some
“ of which my imagination had led me to form
“ the most transporting ideas, yet I could not
“ leave the place of my nativity, and the scenes
“ of my youthful amusements and occupations
“ without regret, and without feeling a melan-
“ choly presage upon my mind, a presage that has
“ been too surely accomplished in the event, that
“ of those transporting pleasures that are peculiar
“ to youth and innocence, and of that gaiety and
“ giddiness of heart which are their usual concom-
“ itants, and which had hitherto always at-
“ tended me, I should never again participate in
“ the same degree; and that the current of my
“ life, which had as yet flown in a tenour equally
“ peaceful and pleasant, would be far more tu-
“ multuous and turbid in its future course. Ac-
“ tuated by these various and mixed emotions,
“ which influenced my mind by turns, I set out
“ on my travels, with my friend and tutor Abul-
“ fedā, and was accompanied by my father as far
“ as Gombroon in the Persian gulph, where I was
“ to embark for Constantinople, the capital of the
“ Ottoman dominions, in case we could find a ship
“ for that port; if not, we proposed to sail in the
“ first ship bound for Leghorn, Venice, or any
“ other port in the Mediterranean. We had
“ waited only a few days, when we found a
“ Turkish vessel ready to sail for Venice with the
“ first fair wind; and having agreed with the
“ captain, whose name was Abdallah, and a
“ favourable gale springing up, my father took
“ an affecting farewell of us both. After recom-
“ mending us to the protection of Allah, he
“ addressed

“addressed himself to Abulfeda, with a solemn-
“tenderness and affectionate fervor, which melt-
“ed and overpowered my heart, and which I
“shall never forget. “My ever worthy friend,”
“said the tender hearted, pious, and venerable
“parent, “to thy care I commit the dear and on-
“ly pledge of my Kadajah’s love! Let the eye
“of thy discernment mark out his path, and the
“hand of thy experience conduct his steps; let
“the light of thy knowledge and the treasures of
“thy wisdom be poured upon his mind; and
“while thou art solicitous to cultivate his under-
“standing by travel, conversation, and study, re-
“member that on thy assiduous endeavours I de-
“pend for the formation of his morals, and for
“the government of his heart; let thine instruc-
“tion and example teach him the duties of piety
“and benevolence, and let the lessons of the
“prophet be instilled into his soul by thy fre-
“quent admonitions, that his virtues may blossom
“as the groves of citron in the gardens of Damas-
“cus. Farewell, my son, and my friend! the
“only joy I shall taste of till you return, will be
“in anticipating the prospect of it, and in
“counting the moments which bring it nearer.
“May Allah preserve you both from every dan-
“ger, and speedily restore you to my longing
“arms, enriched with the treasures of knowledge
“and virtue acquired by your travels into foreign
“countries!” At these words my father, throw-
“ing his arms around my neck, we both burst
“out into a flood of tears, which for some time
“deprived us of the power of speech, and conti-
“nued locked in each other’s arms, as if we
“had each of us believed it would be the last
“embrace; till Abulfeda, thinking it necessary
“to separate us, in order to prevent the further
“indulgence of these emotions, the violence of
“which might have been prejudicial to us both,
“tore me from his bosom, and hurrying me into
“the

“ the ship, ordered the mariners instantly to
“ hoist the sails, which were done with such dis-
“ patch, that the vessel flying before the wind,
“ we were in a few minutes out of each other’s
“ sight ; and in a short time after, nothing was
“ to be seen above or around us but the vast
“ ocean and the boundless hemisphere. For some
“ time, both my sleep and appetite forsook me ;
“ but the powers of nature, which were exhaust-
“ ed, requiring a recruit, they both returned, and
“ I recovered my former serenity and cheerfulness,
“ in proportion as we drew nearer to Europe. Af-
“ ter a voyage of four months, we at last arrived
“ in safety at Venice. I was astonished and de-
“ lighted with the first appearance of this noble
“ city. The number of the canals and bridges,
“ the magnificence of the buildings, and the prodi-
“ gious flow of commerce, which seemed to pour
“ its treasures perpetually into its bosom, gave
“ me an high idea of European opulence and
“ grandeur, while its situation, rising as it were
“ out of the ocean, seemed to ascertain its domi-
“ nion over the watery element.

“ After spending three weeks at Venice, we vi-
“ sited Florence, Rome, Genoa, and the other
“ principal cities of Italy, and embarking at Leg-
“ horn, sailed for Gibraltar, where having staid a
“ few days, we travelled through Spain, France,
“ Germany, Poland, and Transylvania ; and after
“ a course of about three thousand miles, we ar-
“ rived at Constantinople, eighteen months after
“ our setting out from Gibraltar. The variety of
“ places I had seen, the quick succession of scenes
“ I had passed through, and the peculiar customs,
“ manners, and dispositions of the different nati-
“ ons I had visited, contributed so much to the
“ amusement of my imagination, the improve-
“ ment of my understanding, and the increase of
“ my knowledge of human nature, that I had al-
“ most

“ most forgot my native country, and felt very
“ little desire to hasten my return to it. That
“ anxiety and timid caution which are natural to
“ a youthful traveller, on his first launching out
“ into the world, together with a certain painful
“ sensation, resulting from the consciousness
“ of the distance he is at from the place of his
“ abode, his family and friends, were now no
“ longer felt: I considered the world in general
“ as the great theatre on which I was to act:
“ particular countries I preferred only so far as
“ they contributed to my pleasure and improve-
“ ment; and in proportion as my ideas of the
“ varieties in the face of nature and in human
“ characters were enlarged, my attachment to
“ any particular spot was greatly diminished.
“ While I was thus travelling from place to place,
“ with all the ardour of eager curiosity and of
“ sanguine hope, deriving new enjoyment from
“ every succession of new objects that presented
“ themselves to my mind, a melancholy accident
“ which fell out in this flow of my felicity, at
“ once damped the vigour of my pursuits, and
“ for some time put a stop to my career in the
“ bustle of life. This was the death of my wor-
“ thy friend and tutor Abulfeda, who by his in-
“ structive conversation and amiable manners had
“ conciliated my esteem and affection to such a
“ degree, that I regarded him as a second parent.
“ His death therefore was a severe blow, which
“ my utmost fortitude could scarce enable me to
“ sustain. I shut myself up in my chamber for
“ several weeks, and indulged my grief, in la-
“ menting the loss of my dear deceased friend,
“ till finding my health impaired by my confine-
“ ment, I determined, for its re-establishment, to
“ travel to Persia over land, taking the rout
“ through Armenia and Georgia, which last place
“ I was particularly desirous of seeing upon ac-
“ count of the strenuous efforts its princes had
“ made

“ made, in the defence of their liberties, against
“ the tyranny both of the Persian and the Ot-
“ toman court. Having by a letter informed my
“ father of the melancholy death of Abulfeda,
“ and got every thing ready for my departure,
“ I set out on my journey, but felt myself in a
“ very different situation from what I had been
“ in a few days before. Deprived of my dear
“ Abulfeda, who had been my companion through
“ so many remote countries, and whose judicious
“ observations rendered my travels both instruc-
“ tive and entertaining, I began now to sigh for
“ the place of my nativity, and earnestly wished
“ to embrace my father, and to pour my soul in-
“ to his affectionate bosom. But an event, the
“ fruitful source both of the most exquisite happi-
“ ness and misery I had ever felt, soon after
“ happened, which produced a total alteration in
“ the state of mind, and in my future prospects.

“ Having travelled through Armenia without
“ any remarkable occurrence, and felt my health
“ greatly improved, as well as my spirits restored,
“ by moderate exercise, serene weather, and the
“ agreeable scenes of rural life which were fre-
“ quently exhibited to my view, I arrived at
“ Teflis, the capital of Georgia, intending, after
“ making a short stay in that city, to take the
“ nearest rout to Kerman in Carmania, the
“ place of my nativity. During my abode in
“ Teflis, I spent my time principally in studying
“ the genius and manners of the Georgians, and
“ was struck with admiration and surprise at
“ that heroic ardour with which they seemed
“ to be actuated, and which, inflamed as it was
“ by a passion for liberty and independence,
“ rendered them, notwithstanding the small ex-
“ tent of territory they possessed, objects of jea-
“ lousy and dread to the Ottoman empire. As I
“ had

“ had already transgressed the utmost limits of the
“ time I had prescribed for my stay, I gave orders
“ to have every thing in readiness for my departure
“ against next morning, resolving to proceed
“ on my journey with all convenient expedition.
“ The day before I set out I spent in bidding farewell
“ well to several persons of distinguished merit,
“ with whom I had contracted an acquaintance
“ during the short time I continued at Teflis. Returning
“ from a visit of this kind in the forenoon,
“ I walked on insensibly, till I came to the opening
“ of a narrow sequestered avenue, at some distance
“ from the high road, and observing that the avenue
“ to which I had come, though seldom frequented
“ by travellers, promised to conduct me by a nearer
“ and more agreeable passage to my own lodgings,
“ at the same time that the overshadowing trees
“ would afford me shelter from the heat of the sun,
“ which blazed forth with meridian fervor; I entered
“ it without any farther reflection, the gate having
“ been left open by the negligence of the porter; and
“ perceiving that it led along the outside wall of a
“ garden, I followed its direction without impediment,
“ till my attention was all at once arrested by the
“ sound of some female voices which I heard in an
“ adjoining grove. Having come to a higher part of
“ the avenue, which rose almost to a level with the
“ wall, prompted by curiosity, I looked through a
“ hedge which grew upon the top of it, and perceived
“ three ladies sitting in a reclining posture in the
“ grove, to which they had retired, after bathing in
“ a pond which was near it. Two of the ladies having
“ taken off their veils, appeared to be very beautiful,
“ though I did not feel my heart affected by their
“ charms; the other had not yet discovered her face,
“ but rising from the bank on which she had been
“ sitting in the grove, she walked along the terras,
“ close by the hedge
“ through

“ through which I had been looking at her, and
“ exhibited to my view the most graceful shape
“ and deportment I had ever beheld. Struck
“ with the gracefulness of her mein and person,
“ I followed her steps along the outside wall of
“ the garden, in expectation of obtaining, by
“ some lucky accident, a view of her face.
“ At last, feeling herself a little to warm with the
“ heat of the sun, she took off her umbrella,
“ and display’d to my admiring view a splendor
“ of beauty that might have vied with that of
“ the daughters of paradise. I continued for some
“ time wrapt in astonishment; I gazed on her
“ charms with rapture and delight; I essayed to
“ speak, but surprize, confusion, fear, and respect,
“ all joined together, restrained my faltering
“ tongue. I perceived that love had in one mo-
“ ment taken possession of my heart, and that my
“ attachment to this unknown fair one had all the
“ ardour and strength of a deep-rooted passion.
“ I continued walking on the outside of the gar-
“ den, keeping still in my eye the lady whose
“ beauty had so ravished my senses, till I ob-
“ served her enter another arbour, at the end of
“ the walk, when, taking a book out of her
“ pocket, she sat down within the arbour, and
“ began to read, without seeming to have any
“ suspicion of being seen by any one. I kept
“ my eyes for some time immoveably fixed on
“ this divine creature, but knew not how to find
“ an opportunity of recommending myself to her
“ favour, and of declaring my passion; till hap-
“ pening to cast my eye upon a back door, which
“ seemed to be half open, I determined, after
“ much hesitation, and after a severe struggle
“ betwixt the fear of offending, and the hope of
“ exciting some degree of tenderness and love in
“ the heart of one in whom all my happiness was
“ placed, to enter the garden. As I approached
“ the bower in which this enchanting creature
reclined

“reclined, my knees tottered under me, scarce
 “able to sustain their wight, a sudden tremor
 “seized my nerves, and the confusion which
 “overspread my mind for some time sealed
 “my tongue. Having come to the entrance of
 “the arbour, I prostrated myself before her, ad-
 “dressing her with a faltering accent: “Pardon
 “madam, said I, the presumption of an unfortu-
 “nate youth, who has wandered over a great
 “part of the world, but has never till this mo-
 “ment, felt the power of female charms; though
 “his heart is now so deeply smitten by the lustre
 “of your beauty, that he can sooner cease
 “to live than to love you. Let your benignity
 “and pity incline you to forgive an offence
 “which the violence of his passion forced him
 “to commit, and deign to accept of an heart
 “the most constant that ever animated a human
 “breast, which is wholly and only yours.”

“Selima, for that was the name of the lady,
 “eyed me with a mixture of surprize, emotion,
 “and resentment, tempered (as I thought) with
 “some degree of tenderness; and assuming a se-
 “verity of accent, which however seemed foreign
 “to her natural disposition, “Rash and unthinking
 “man, said she, what ill-fated accident has
 “brought thee to a place, where thy detection
 “would be so dangerous to thyself, and so disho-
 “nourable to me? Or what motive could have
 “induced thee to intrude upon that privacy which
 “ought to have been held sacred by a respectful
 “lover? As I am apt to impute thy extrava-
 “gant temerity to an ill-timed passion for me,
 “I am unwilling thou shouldst suffer by an in-
 “discretion of which I myself may have been
 “the cause. If, however, thou hast any regard
 “to my reputation, or thy own safety, thou wilt
 “instantly leave this garden.” Imagining from
 B “the

“ the tone of her voice, and from the expression
 “ of her eye, that the injunction she had delivered
 “ proceeded more from the fear of exposing
 “ me to danger, and herself to censure, than
 “ from real resentment at my conduct, I replied,
 “ That with regard to my own safety, I was
 “ entirely careless about it, while I was engaged
 “ in a pursuit far dearer to me than life, and upon
 “ the success of which both my life and happiness
 “ depended; that her reputation, however with
 “ me, outweighed every other circumstance; and
 “ to shew her, how much I was devoted to her
 “ obedience, I told her, that I would that moment
 “ leave her presence, though it was the
 “ most severe mortification I could possibly endure,
 “ in hopes of obtaining some more favourable
 “ opportunity afterwards of declaring the sincerity
 “ and fervor of a passion, which no time nor
 “ accident could ever extinguish, or abate”

“ After making this declaration I took my leave
 “ of Selima in the most respectful manner, and
 “ returned to my own lodgings, with a heart entirely
 “ engrossed by the charms of this incomparable
 “ fair one, and wholly devoted to the purpose of
 “ forming an honourable connection with her,
 “ the success of which I perceived to be essential
 “ to my happiness. As soon as I arrived at my
 “ own apartments in the city, I made the most
 “ prudent enquiry I could, concerning the relations
 “ of the lady who had obtained the empire of my heart,
 “ and learnt that she was the daughter of Ezadallah,
 “ one of the Georgian nobility, a man of strict probity and honour,
 “ and who was universally respected in the place
 “ where he lived. Having got this intelligence,
 “ the next object of my solicitude was to get
 “ myself properly introduced to Ezadallah, which
 “ I easily obtained by means of Ali Merdan
 “ Khan,

“ Khan, another Georgian nobleman, with whom
 “ I had contracted an acquaintance, and who
 “ lived in terms of friendship with the father
 “ of Selima. Without having as yet discovered
 “ my intentions to Ali Merdan Khan I asked him
 “ to introduce me to his friend Ezadallah, a re-
 “ quest with which he very chearfully complied ;
 “ and I was received by that worthy man with
 “ all the hospitality and kindness I could desire.
 “ on my first visit I was blessed only with a sight
 “ of Selima covered with a veil, which, while
 “ it admitted of her seeing others, entirely con-
 “ cealed her face from their view. Even this
 “ circumstance I considered as an indulgence, it
 “ not being the custom in eastern countries for
 “ the women to appear among men who are stran-
 “ gers to them ; but as Ezadallah was a man
 “ much conversant in the world, and whose sen-
 “ timents were enlarged by a comprehensive
 “ knowledge of the manners and customs of
 “ other nations, he allowed his daughter greater
 “ liberties in these things than are usually ad-
 “ mitted in the East, at the same time that he
 “ shewed a regard to the customs of his coun-
 “ try so far as to train her up in the practice of
 “ wearing a veil.

“ Though my love was cruelly mortified by this
 “ circumstance of her dress, I endeavoured with
 “ all the insinuation I was capable of, to recom-
 “ mend myself to her regard, in which, I flattered
 “ myself, that I was in some degree successful ;
 “ and having obtained an invitation from Ezadallah
 “ to repeat my visits as often as my conveniency
 “ would admit, I took my leave at this time, de-
 “ termined to embrace an opportunity very soon of
 “ complying with the invitation I had received :
 “ about two days after I repaired to the house of
 “ Ezadallah, in expectation of finding some fortu-

“ nate occasion of renewing my addreses to the
“ lovely Selima. whose image was impressed upon
“ my soul in characters that could never be ef-
“ faced ; but she still continued veiled, while in
“ company, and I still persevered in my endea-
“ vours to render myself agreeable to her by all
“ the means in my power. After dinner however
“ she retired from the rest of the company, and I
“ began to reflect, not without a certain fretful-
“ nels of temper, on the want of a proper oppor-
“ tunity to declare a passion which occupied my
“ whole heart ; when, happening to look out at a
“ window that faced the garden, I observed the
“ mistress of my soul walking along a terras, and
“ retiring into the arbour where I had first disco-
“ vered her. As soon as I perceived her, my
“ heart throbbed with hope and fear, with joy
“ and impatience. Awed by those sentiments of
“ native modesty which usually take place in the
“ mind of a timid, a respectful, and an unexpe-
“ rienced lover, I stood irresolute for a moment,
“ but instigated by the irresistible impulse of love,
“ I stole unheeded out of a room, and perceiving
“ the garden-door open I hurried into the garden,
“ and walked up hastily to the bower into which I
“ had observed Selima entering. As I approached
“ the place the palpitation of my heart redoub-
“ led ; and observing the dear creature in the
“ same posture in which I had formerly seen her,
“ Let not my lovely Selima, said I, resent as an
“ intrusion upon her privacy my embracing the on-
“ ly opportunity I could obtain of repeating my de-
“ clarations of an affection for her, which is as
“ pure and fervent, as it is stedfast and unaltera-
“ ble. O let my enchanting fair one reward with
“ one smile of approbation and complacency the
“ passion to which her beauty has given birth, and
“ allow me some ground to hope for an union
“ which will consummate my felicity ?

“ Selima,

“ Selima, pleased with the ardour and delicacy
 “ of my passion, and even with the confusion and
 “ timidity I discovered in my addresses, which to
 “ her was a sufficient proof of my sincerity, conde-
 “ scended to acquaint me that her heart was not
 “ altogether indifferent to the accomplishments of
 “ which, in her eye, I appeared to be possessed,
 “ and that if, upon a more particular acquaint-
 “ tance, my character corresponded to this ap-
 “ pearance, and my proposals were approved of
 “ by her father, perhaps my suit, in the end,
 “ might not prove unsuccessful.” Transported
 “ with the intimation she had given me, I seized
 “ her hand once more, which with a smile of in-
 “ effable benignity and sweetness, she allowed me
 “ to press to my bosom ; and kissing it with the
 “ utmost respect and tenderness, I took my leave
 “ of my charming Selima with an exultation and
 “ transport that well nigh endangered my reason.
 “ Perceiving that this new attachment, which en-
 “ tirely occupied my soul, would necessarily re-
 “ quire my staying a considerable time in Tessis, I
 “ immediately discharged the servants and camels
 “ which I had hired, and devoted myself wholly
 “ to the cares of love.

“ With this view I repeated my visits to Ezadal-
 “ lah, the father of Selima, and employed all the
 “ arts I was master of in order to ingratiate myself
 “ with him, in which I succeeded so well, that
 “ having after a sufficient acquaintance with him
 “ disclosed my wishes with respect to Selima, he
 “ consented to gratify my desires, provided the
 “ match was agreeable to his daughter and approv-
 “ ed by my own father. As I enjoyed the happi-
 “ ness of seeing my charming mistress frequently
 “ after this declaration I had made of my inten-
 “ tions, I had the good fortune to render myself so
 “ agreeable to her, that an indissoluble union of

“ our interests was the object of our mutual and
 “ earnest desires. The only thing wanting to com-
 “ plete our felicity was the approbation and con-
 “ currence of my father, which I solicited with
 “ all the eloquence and address I was master of,
 “ and which, as the match was no way discredit-
 “ able, and was so passionately desired on my part,
 “ I did not much doubt of obtaining—Having
 “ charged the messenger whom I sent with a letter
 “ to my father, requesting his consent to my union
 “ with Selima, to make all possible dispatch on his
 “ journey, I spent the intermediate time in those
 “ innocent endearments, and in those delightful
 “ reciprocations of love and tenderness which are
 “ the result of a mutual passion, and which by
 “ heightening our desires of being inseparably uni-
 “ ted to each other, rendered us impatient of the
 “ least obstruction to the accomplishment of our
 “ wishes. At last the messenger returned with an an-
 “ swer to the letter I had written to my father,
 “ conceived in as favourable a stile as I could
 “ have wished, intimating, that though he had
 “ projected an union betwixt me and the lady he
 “ had mentioned before my setting out on my
 “ travels, yet he had always resolved not to in-
 “ terfere with my own inclinations in a matter of
 “ so much importance to my happiness, and as-
 “ suring me of his entire and cheerful concurrence
 “ with my wishes. He concluded with desiring
 “ me to hasten my departure as soon as possible
 “ after the celebration of my nuptials, as he
 “ was desirous of pronouncing his benediction on
 “ us both before his death, which from his declin-
 “ ing state, and from several symptoms in his case,
 “ he said, he was inclined to believe was at no
 “ great distance.

“ The information I had received of my fa-
 “ ther’s dangerous state of health alarmed and
 “ affected me exceedingly ; and the remembrance
 “ of

“ of his condescending indulgence, his paternal af-
“ fection, and his earnest solicitude for my hap-
“ piness, awakened at once all my tenderness and
“ grief at the thoughts of losing a parent who was
“ so justly dear to me. I immediately communicated
“ the letter I had received to Selima, who parti-
“ cipated in my sorrow, and we agreed to defer
“ the celebration of our marriage till after our ar-
“ rival at Kerman, for which in two days we set
“ out, accompanied with Mortiza Cauli, the bro-
“ ther of Selima, who agreed to accompany us on
“ our journey. We travelled for several days
“ with great expedition, and without meeting
“ with any remarkable accident; but when we
“ were within two days journey of Kerman, I re-
“ ceived the melancholy account of my father’s
“ death. This intimation renewed my grief for
“ the loss of so kind and so worthy a parent;
“ which however was greatly mitigated by the
“ tender and soothing sympathy of Selima, whose
“ endearing society could alone comfort me un-
“ der the affliction I had sustained. After receiv-
“ ing this melancholy news, I hastened along
“ with Selima and her brother to Kerman, in
“ order to pay the last duty to the memory of
“ the deceased, whose urn I bedewed with the
“ tears of unfeigned sorrow. Having spent the u-
“ sual time in mourning, and having given vent to
“ the emotions of nature in the genuine expressions
“ of heartfelt grief, for the loss of a parent whom
“ I equally revered and loved, I recovered by
“ degrees my former tranquility, and began to
“ think of accomplishing that union with Selima,
“ the prospect of which constituted the chief happi-
“ ness of my life. But let those in whose memories is
“ registered the series of my misfortunes, learn from
“ these the instability of human happiness, which,
“ though heedless mortals fancy to be solid and
“ permanent, as the strong based promontory of the
“
“

“ Hellespont, that stands unshaken amidst the
“ roar and dashing of the waves of the Archi-
“ pelago, is tottering as the broken fragment of
“ a tower which falls from the ruined domes of
“ Palmyra on the head of the unhappy travel-
“ ler, and instantly crushes him to pieces. I was
“ just upon the point of effectuating this long de-
“ sired union, when an accident fell out, which
“ blasted the blossoms of my hope, and involved
“ us all in a train of misfortunes which were
“ equally severe and irremediable.

“ Savi Mustapha, the father of Abbassah, hav-
“ ing heard that I brought a young lady along
“ with me, and probably having heard that I in-
“ tended to marry her as soon as the time of
“ mourning for my father was expired, wrote
“ me a letter, intimating that my father had en-
“ tered into a treaty of marriage betwixt his
“ daughter and me, and had engaged that it
“ should be fulfilled on my part upon my return
“ to my native country; that he supposed I had
“ been acquainted of, and had concurred with
“ the views of the deceased, and that he hoped
“ to find me as ardently desirous as my father had
“ been, of contracting an alliance which was
“ equally creditable and advantageous to both
“ parties, and which would unite their families
“ in the bonds of consanguinity and friendship.

“ This proposal, it may easily be imagined,
“ could make no impression on the mind of one
“ who was wholly devoted to Selima, and whom
“ all the gold of Golconda and the diadem of
“ Persia could not have tempted to have relin-
“ quished the object of his choice. I had a cu-
“ riosity however to try its effect on Selima, and
“ taking her aside, put the letter into her hand,
“ desiring her to read it. After perusing the
“ letter

“ letter she returned it, casting upon me at the
“ same time a tender, pensive, and dejected look;
“ which at once expressed affection, timidity, and
“ a sense of dependence accompanied with a
“ certain delicacy of sentiment which seemed
“ to restrain her from exerting the influence she
“ possessed to secure the empire of my heart.
“ I felt myself thrilled with her look; but desirous
“ of trying her still farther, “ What, said I
“ does my Selima think of this letter?” The
“ question seemed to surprize her a good deal,
“ and threw her into the most lovely confusion
“ and embarrassment; recovering herself however
“ a little; ” What, replies she, is Rhedi’s
“ own opinion of it? The proposed match appears
“ to me, added she, to be too advantageous
“ to be rejected by an ambitious young man,
“ who, by such an alliance, has it in his power
“ to increase his fortune and aggrandize his
“ family at once.” “ And does Selima wish,
“ said I, that I should pursue the path of ambition
“ by the means she has suggested?” Selima
“ rejoined, “ The lovely maid forms no other
“ wish with respect to Rhedi, but that he may
“ follow the bent of his own inclinations, and
“ consult his own happiness without any regard
“ to her, who, if he is happier in the possession
“ of Abbassah than of Selima, will return with
“ her brother to her native country, putting up
“ her ardent vows to heaven for a continuance of
“ happiness to one whom she once tenderly loved,
“ and whom, alas! perhaps she may never be
“ able to forget.” At these words the tear started
“ into her eye, and trinkled down her cheek.
“ I was unable to contain myself longer, clasping
“ her therefore to my bosom in an extacy
“ of tenderness and rapture, forgive, said I, dearest
“ creature, the artifice I made use of to try
“ the strength and delicacy of thy affection,

“ which was not suggested by any doubt of its
“ reality, but by a curiosity I felt to explore its
“ effects. Be assured of it, thou sole unrivalled
“ mistress of my heart, that were all the trea-
“ sures and kingdoms of the world laid at my
“ feet, and all the beauties of the universe ranged
“ before me for my selection, the possession of
“ all these could never alienate my constant heart
“ from thee, in whom all my wishes center and in
“ whom alone my felicity is complete.

“ After we had both given vent for sometime to
“ the most pleasing emotions that the human heart
“ is susceptible of, Selima expressed her apprehensions, lest I should shock and offend the pride
“ of one of the most potent beglerbegs of Persia, by
“ declining a match which had been under deliberation betwixt him and my father, and was now
“ proposed by Savi Mustapha himself. In order to
“ remove her apprehensions therefore as much possible, I promised to write to him in the most prudent and respectful manner; for though I had
“ reason to believe that he could scarce expect that
“ I should conclude a match which, he himself
“ knew, I was brought under no obligation to from
“ any engagement of my father, and which considering the attachment I was known to have to
“ Selima he must have been convinced I would
“ be utterly averse to; and though I had likewise
“ reason to believe, that in these circumstances the
“ principal motive of Savi Mustapha, in proposing
“ the match, could only be to obtain from my refusal a pretext for quarrelling with me; yet I
“ thought it was in every respect the wisest course
“ to avoid, if possible, exasperating a man,
“ who might, in the friendless and unsupported
“ state I was now in, have it in his power
“ to subject me to the severest hardships. I wrote
“ him therefore that I was extremely sensible of
“ the

“ the honour he intended me by the alliance he
“ proposed, of which I should ever retain the most
“ grateful remembrance ; but that I should be ut-
“ terly unworthy of his esteem and friendship, if
“ I accepted of his proposal by giving my hand
“ where it was not possible for me to bestow my
“ heart. I observed that our affections were not
“ in our own power, that mine were already unal-
“ terably fixed on a lady whom I had brought with
“ me from her native country, and that I could
“ not violate these engagements without being
“ guilty at the same time of a breach of the most
“ sacred ties of love, honour, and gratitude. I
“ concluded with wishing his daughter a hus-
“ band more worthy of her, and who could
“ return her affection with equal sincerity and ar-
“ dour ; begging he would excuse me for declin-
“ ing a match, which I was perfectly conscious
“ would have been equally creditable and advan-
“ tageous, could I have accepted of his generous
“ offer consistently with the dictates of fidelity and
“ honour. This answer, though sufficiently soothing
“ and respectful, greatly shocked the pride and in-
“ flamed the resentment of the haughty beglerbeg,
“ who, as I have already observed, seemed only
“ to want a pretext for quarrelling with me ; and
“ indeed he soon made me feel the weight of his
“ resentment, by bringing upon me a series of ca-
“ lamities, that were as unexpected as they were
“ severe.

“ The grand Vizier Aman Ola, who was the
“ friend and patron of Savi Mustapha, was at
“ that time on a tour through the southern de-
“ partment of Persia, under a pretence of redres-
“ sing the grievances which had been complained
“ of, and settling the commotions that had been
“ raised, though in fact the sole intent of his ex-
“ pedition was to discover the authours of the op-
“ position.

“ position that had been made to his own tyrannical administration, that he might contrive the means of cutting them off while Aman Ola was at Kerman: he lodged in the house of Savi Mustapha, who took that opportunity of representing me to the Vizier as disaffected to his administration, informing him at the same time that my father had left me an opulent fortune, which might easily be confiscated and applied to his own use, upon a pretence of its being acquired by fraud and oppression. Nothing more was wanting to make the Vizier enter into this scheme, than to hear that, by the success of it, he could not fail very considerably to increase his overgrown fortune; accordingly, actuated as he was at once by two of the most powerful springs of human conduct, avarice and revenge, he instantly commenced a suite in the name of the emperor his master against me, upon an allegation of my father's fortune being acquired by injustice; and having suborned witnesses in concert with Savi Mustapha to prove the facts he alledged, I was instantly bereaved of my paternal estate under the colour of law, though that estate was the reward of honest industry and frugality, and was earned by my father with the general esteem and good-will of the inhabitants of the province in which he resided.

“ Merciful Allah! exclaimed Amur, how long wilt thou suffer that monster of wickedness to triumph in his crimes? Is not the measure of his iniquities yet full? Surely thou hast destined him, as thou dost plagues and earthquakes to be thine instrument for inflicting punishment on the children of men? But why dost thou permit the innocent to suffer with the guilty? Why should the worthy and the good be subjected to the persecution of a wretch whom
 his

his flagitiousness has rendered an object of general detestation and abhorrence ?

“ What you have heard,” resumed Rhedi,
“ is but a small part of that series of calamity
“ which I have been doomed to endure ; the re-
“ maining part will draw the tear of pity from
“ the humid eye, and make the sympathetic bo-
“ som heave with the sigh of sorrow.—The mali-
“ cious Savi Mustapha, and his cruel accomplice
“ in villainy, not contented with stripping me of
“ all my paternal inheritance, meditated a much
“ severer blow against me than poverty or death
“ itself, by ravishing from me the sole delight of
“ my heart, my dear Selima, for whom alone I
“ wished to live ; which was effectuated with
“ such violence and outrage as I yet shudder to
“ relate. I was so aware of the danger of di-
“ vulging a report concerning Selima’s beauty
“ while we were unmarried, and so much afraid
“ of her being gazed at with the eye of desire,
“ that I had prevailed with her to continue veil-
“ ed, both in the presence of our sex and of her
“ own. It happened however unfortunately, that
“ a maid, whom Selima had brought along with
“ her from Georgia, having one day taken occa-
“ sion, without any design, to celebrate the
“ charms of her mistress before some of the ser-
“ vants of Savi Mustapha, with whom she had
“ got acquainted, one of them repeated to his
“ master the report he had heard of Selima’s
“ beauty. Mustapha took an opportunity of men-
“ tioning to the Vizier what he had heard ; and
“ both of them, stimulated partly by curiosity,
“ and partly by resentment, concurred in a reso-
“ lution, without any ceremony, of tearing off
“ her veil by violence ; and if she answered to
“ the description which had been given of her,
“ of carrying her off by force. In order to gra-
“ tify

“ tify their brutal curiosity of obtaining a sight
“ of Selima, they bribed a maid-servant who
“ came along with her from Tefflis, but who
“ was ignorant of their real design, to admit
“ them, by a private door, into a garden at the
“ back of my father’s house, at a certain hour,
“ when they knew she usually walked there; and
“ having observed her from an eminence at some
“ distance, which overlooked the garden, re-
“ posing herself on a sloping bank near the
“ door at which they were to enter, along with
“ the maid who usually attended her, they re-
“ paired immediately to the door, and turning
“ the bolt softly, entered without observation,
“ leaving a guard to rescue them in case of dan-
“ ger, or to assist them in carrying off their
“ prize; then tripping up quickly, but with as
“ little noise as possible, to Selima, whose back
“ happened to be turned towards them, Musta-
“ pha tore the veil from her face, before she
“ suspected any danger; and the unhappy fair one,
“ whose mind was thrown into a wild flutter of
“ astonishment and terror by the indignity that
“ had been shewn her, giving a loud shriek which
“ was heard by her brother and me from the house,
“ we both started up in an instant, and snatching
“ our swords hastily, ran to the place where we
“ heard the voice. You may judge of the emo-
“ tion I felt (for it is impossible to describe it)
“ when upon my coming up to the spot, to
“ which we were directed by the piercing
“ screams of Selima and her maid, whose voi-
“ ces by this time we began to recognize, I saw
“ the dear object of my affections in the arms of
“ my greatest enemy, and violently dragged
“ away by the Vizier and Savi Mustapha, who
“ were protected in their infamous enterprize by
“ the guard which had been posted at the door,
“ but which had now entered the garden, in con-
“ sequence

“ sequence of a concerted signal that had been
“ given them, in order to assist in carrying off
“ Selima, and to defend them from any assault
“ that might be made upon them while they
“ were executing their design. Roused to the
“ utmost pitch of resentment and fury, I sprung
“ upon the wretches who had committed this
“ outrage, like a bear robbed of her whelps,
“ and directing my vengeance in the first place
“ against Mustapha, whom I considered as the
“ author of it, I plunged my sword in an instant
“ into his heart, and laid him dead at my feet.
“ Mortiza Couli, actuated by the same passions
“ of grief and rage with which I was agitated,
“ rushed at once into the midst of the guard;
“ two of whom he dispatched with his sword;
“ but alas! the brave unhappy youth, in at-
“ tempting to save his sister's honour, lost his own
“ life; for as he was aiming a blow at the Vi-
“ zier, he received a mortal wound in the breast
“ from one of his attendants, and expired in a
“ few minutes upon the spot. The Vizier seeing
“ Mortiza Cauli fall by the wound he had re-
“ ceived, called to the rest of his guard to take
“ and disarm me, if possible; and two of them
“ having, before I was aware, got hold of both
“ my arms, the all immediately closed upon me,
“ and having disarmed and bound me, I was sent
“ without delay to a strong prison, where the
“ Vizier ordered I should be confined till his fur-
“ ther pleasure should be known. When I per-
“ ceived myself in the power of my enemies,
“ and that I was going instantly to be separa-
“ ted from Selima, and probably for ever, all
“ the passions which can agitate and tear the
“ human heart arose in my mind at once.—Love,
“ rage, jealousy, hatred, terror, and despair al-
“ ternately reigned and mingled with each other
“ in my soul, in their utmost fury, and produced
“ a conflict,

“ a conflict, whose violence roused me to phrenzy, and almost terminated in my dissolution. “ I roared with the intolerable anguish which “ wrung my heart; I exclaimed, I adjured, I “ implored, I threatnend, I imprecated the vengeance of heaven on the barbarous wretch “ who was the cause of this cruel separation; “ but all was in vain; I was carried away violently to prison; and as I was dragged along, “ I continued looking behind me, and calling “ upon the name of Selima, till my cries could “ no more be heard. I was thrown into a dungeon, dark and dismal as the mansions of the “ grave, where I lay in an agony of grief, that “ tortured my soul, and consumed my life. For “ some time I continued abandoned to the most “ dreadful and cruel despair, arraigning the justice of Providence, upon account of the calamities to which I was subjected; but at last reason returned, and religion began to dawn upon “ my gloomy and troubled mind, shedding an “ effulgence, mild as the appearance of the vernal sun after the ravages of a storm, and “ chasing away the horrors of despair, as the “ fogs which blast the blossoms of the spring are “ scattered by the splendor of the orb of day. “ Along with religion, fortitude and hope, her “ invariable attendants, possessed my breast; “ and actuated as I was on the one hand by “ an intrepid resolution of braving every danger, “ and on the other by a stedfast trust in Providence for accomplishing my deliverance; at “ the same time that I was animated with the “ strongest desires of once more seeing Selima, “ desires which were now inspirited with the ardour of hope, I was determined to attempt “ every expedient for my release which my “ imagination could suggest; tho’ I had as yet “ fixed upon none which seemed at once safe and “ practicable.

“ practicable. But the ever merciful Allah to
“ whose care and protection I resigned myself
“ and all my interests, and whose reinvigorating
“ influence I felt upon my mind, condescended,
“ by an intimation which seemed to be the effect
“ of accident, to point out the means of accom-
“ plishing my escape from that horrible prison in
“ which I was confined.

“ As I was one day lying stretched on a coarse
“ mattrass which served for my bed, and revolv-
“ ing in my mind every scheme that I could think
“ of for effectuating my deliverance, I happened to
“ cast my eye on a square stone in the floor of the
“ prison, by the side of which stone there seemed
“ to be a small aperture, and what both astonished
“ and delighted me was, that I thought I perceiv-
“ ed a faint glimmering of light through the inter-
“ stance. Instigated by curiosity, and elated with
“ joyful expectation of making some discovery
“ that might facilitate my escape, I sprung from
“ my bed with eager impatience, and having dug
“ up with a knife which I had in my pocket a good
“ deal of earth from the side of the stone, till I had
“ made room to admit my hands below it, I at
“ last raised it with some difficulty, and observed
“ that the removal of the stone opened a passage
“ into a dark and narrow cave, which had been
“ scooped out of the earth with incredible labour,
“ by a person who had been confined a few weeks
“ before in the dungeon in which I was, for a
“ capital crime, but had by this stratagem elud-
“ ed the sword of justice. I entered the cave
“ with a kind of unusual dread, mixed with joy,
“ at the possibility of finding an outlet from my
“ doleful prison, and groping my way in the dark,
“ in the best manner I was able, I at length disco-
“ vered a ray of light issuing through a crevice
“ betwixt two stones in the streets; but as it
“ was

" was now mid-day, I had presence of mind
 " enough to recollect, that if I should immediate-
 " ly attempt to force my passage, by removing
 " the stones which covered the outlet of the cave,
 " I should inevitably be discovered, and pre-
 " clude all hopes of my release. As the hour
 " therefore of my being visited by the keeper of
 " the prison, when he brought me my scanty
 " pittance of provisions, was near at hand I hast-
 " ened back to my dungeon, and having replac-
 " ed the stone exactly in the situation in which
 " it had been before my discovery of this subterra-
 " neous passage, and trampled down the earth
 " around the sides of it, I waited for the approach
 " of evening with an impatience proportionable
 " to my ardent desires of being released from the
 " most cruel and dreadful captivity. At last night
 " spread her dark robe over the earth, the inhabi-
 " tants of Kerman were lulled in slumber, and
 " echo herself slept in her cell. I hastily removed
 " the stone in the prison was which laid over the en-
 " trance of the cave ; I once more entered this dis-
 " mal passage, with less dread indeed than formerly
 " but with a palpitation of heart that made
 " my knees smite each other, and having groped
 " my way as before, though with more difficulty,
 " as there was not the least ray of light to be seen,
 " I arrived at the end of the passage, and pushing
 " the stones which were above my head with my
 " utmost strength, I removed one of them and
 " having with some difficulty pressed through the
 " hole, I found myself all at once in the open
 " street.

" You may easily imagine the transport I was in
 " upon this unexpected recovery of my liberty ;
 " my heart bounded with joy, and I offered up my
 " grateful and ardent vows to Allah, for thus con-
 " descending

“ descending to point out the means of my deliver-
“ ance, But when that extacy of pleasure which
“ had for a moment wrapped my senses in the most
“ enchanting delirium, and suspended the exercise
“ of reason, had at last subsided, and giving place
“ to the dictates of sober reflexion, my anxiety for
“ the honour and safety of Selima recurred upon
“ my mind with redoubled sensibility; and the
“ dangers to which my imagination represented
“ her as exposed, as well as the improbability of
“ recovering her again, in the situation in which
“ I now was, rendered me totally insensible of the
“ happiness which I should otherwise have experi-
“ enced in my being released from my deplora-
“ ble captivity. Selima was the constant object
“ of my thoughts, all my desires and wishes cen-
“ tered in her, and yet I could see no rational
“ foundation for the hope of her being ever resto-
“ red to my arms. Almost despairing of being
“ ever blest with a sight of her who was dearer to
“ me than life, I wandered with a slow and me-
“ lancholy step through the streets of Kerman,
“ abandoned to the most excessive grief, without
“ knowing whither I went, till the approach of
“ dawn roused me from my reverie, and made me
“ sensible that it was necessary to take some pre-
“ caution for my own safety. For this purpose I
“ hastened out of the city as fast as possible, and
“ directing my course by the least-frequented
“ road, I arrived at a village about ten miles dis-
“ tance from the city, where I thought I was in
“ little danger of being known, especially after
“ some years absence from my native country.

“ In order however more effectually to guard
“ against a detection. I purchased some coarse
“ cloaths with a part of the little money I still had
“ in my pocket, and arraying myself in the habit
“ of

“ of a peasant, I proceeded on my journey towards
“ Isfahan, where my father had several friends
“ of rank and credit, to whom I proposed to make
“ myself known, and whose advice and assistance I
“ hoped to obtain in the present unfortunate situation of my affairs. What determined me to
“ take this course was, that I had learnt in the village which I had left, that the Vizier, after
“ shutting me up in the prison, set out immediately with Selima for the capital, intending, as I
“ was fully persuaded, to present her to the emperor. As I was informed in some villages
“ through which I passed, that the Vizier having
“ heard of my escape, had set a price upon my
“ head, I took all the precautions which prudence
“ could suggest for my own safety, by travelling
“ the most unfrequented roads, and often taking
“ shelter in the woods and mountains, where I apprehended the least danger of being discovered,
“ till at last I arrived at Isfahan, without any suspicion; where I waited upon two of my father’s
“ friends, and acquainted them of my situation and errand at the court of Persia. But both of
“ them, afraid to engage in an affair; the issue of
“ which, to say the truth, was extremely dangerous and doubtful, since no redress could be obtained without arraigning the prime Vizier himself, and charging him with the most enormous
“ crimes, advised me to desist from an attempt
“ which, however just, was attended with so much hazard as indeed could scarce fail to bring
“ accumulated vengeance upon my own head, and
“ upon those of my friends. They urged me to
“ think no more of Selima, whom I could have no
“ prospect of recovering, and gave it as their
“ opinion that I should assume the habit and character of a travelling merchant, generously proposing to supply me with money, and support me
“ with their credit in the pursuit of this new occupation.

“ Though

“ Though this advice seemed to be rational and
“ was doubtless well meant, yet the conduct it
“ prescribed was too phlegmatic and indifferent to
“ suit the ardor of my passion for Selima ; for the
“ hopes of regaining whom I determined to suffer
“ every hardship, and run every risk that I could
“ possibly be exposed to. Perceiving however, that
“ the profession of a merchant would, by procuring
“ me access to several persons who attended the
“ court, afford me a better chance of seeing Selima,
“ at least of obtaining intelligence of her, than any
“ other profession I could assume. I readily acqui-
“ esced in their sentiments, though with very diffi-
“ rent views from those of my friends ; and hav-
“ ing once more changed my garb, I appeared in
“ the dress of a merchant ; and, supported as I
“ was by the interest of those who had proposed
“ that I should try my fortune this way, I expos-
“ ed some of the richest silks and jewels that
“ could be procured, in the usual place of sale,
“ carefully avoiding every opportunity of being
“ seen by the Vizier, by retiring under some pre-
“ tence when he happened to appear, and giving
“ orders to a person to whose care I committed
“ my commodities to manage the sale till my re-
“ turn. While I was one day unfolding a bale
“ of silk at the desire of a purchaser, I observed a
“ person eyeing me as he passed with a stedfast-
“ ness and attention that greatly disconcerted me.
“ Upon enquiry, I found that the person who
“ had view'd me so particularly was Obeyd,
“ chief eunuch to the Sophy ; a discovery that
“ increased my embarrassment and confusion. O-
“ beyd observing my countenance overspread
“ with blushes, came up to me immediately,
“ and whispered in a low voice, “ Be not afraid,”
“ said he, “ of any evil from me. My name is
“ Obeyd, and my office is to superintend the
“ women and eunuchs in the haram. Your father
“ Abusaid

“ Abufaid was one of my best friends: I am
“ not ignorant of your situation and circumstan-
“ ces: I will be happy to have it in my power
“ to shew my gratitude to the father by good of-
“ fices to the son—Come this evening, at the
“ usual hour of supper, to my house in the habit
“ which you now wear, without any fear of a dis-
“ covery, and perhaps I may contribute to the suc-
“ cess of your wishes.” At these words I experien-
“ ced a sudden transition from the most alarming
“ fear to the most unbounded confidence and
“ most exquisite joy I had ever felt, and I
“ could only just so far recollect myself, as
“ to be able to reply, in the same low tone
“ of voice, that I was inexpressibly obliged
“ to his friendship, that he should ever find me
“ grateful, and that I would be sure to wait
“ upon him at the hour appointed.

“ After his departure, I began to call to re-
“ membrance a slave, of the name of Obeyd,
“ whom my father had purchased, and whom, on
“ account of his faithful services, he had restord
“ to liberty; and in the countenance of the per-
“ son who had just left me, I recognized the
“ features of the honest slave. I remembered like-
“ wise that I had heard that Obeyd had entered
“ into the service of the Sophy, though by reason
“ of my absence from my native country for some
“ years I had not heard of the dignity to which
“ he was raised; and if any thing had been
“ wanting to remove my fears, and increase my
“ confidence, the character of Obeyd was suffi-
“ cient to do it; for I reflected that I had often
“ heard my father speak of his inviolable fidelity,
“ and I knew that he gave him the strongest re-
“ commendations on his leaving his service.

“ I waited

“ I waited for the hour appointed for our interview with almost as much impatience as if I had expected to see Selima herself ; for I flattered myself that this interview would afford me the prospect of being once more blessed with a sight of the dear object of my affections ; and when it expired, I hurried away with the utmost eagerness to the house of Obeyd. I was not obliged to wait long for the appearance of my friendly host : upon hearing that I was in the parlour below, he hastened immediately into the room, and embracing me with the most cordial joy, “ I am happy my dear Rhedi,” said he, “ in this opportunity of seeing the son of my worthy friend and benefactor Abufaid, and I should be still happier to be able to repay you the many kindnesses I have received from him. I am but too well acquainted with your misfortunes, and I most sincerely sympathize with you under them : I know not whether it will be in my power to relieve you from their pressure, but I will at least attempt it, dangerous as I am sensible the undertaking must be to myself. In the meantime be assured, that Selima, though she continues abandoned to the most excessive grief, upon account of the separation from her lover, has preserved her honour inviolate : to-morrow you shall enjoy the happiness of seeing her, and I will let you know in proper time the hour and place of the destined interview.”

“ I attempted to repeat my acknowledgements for the very friendly intentions he expressed, and for the strong interest he took in the sufferings of two such unfortunate lovers ; but he prevented me from going on, by telling me, that there was no occasion for making any professions of gratitude to him, since he would think himself
“ completely

“ completely rewarded, if he should be happy
“ enough to be the instrument of accomplishing
“ the release of Selima, and of restoring her to
“ one who was worthy of her, and who, by being
“ the sole object of her affections, had the only
“ title to possess them. Besides, though your
“ own merit and sufferings, added he, had not
“ interested me in your fate, the remembrance
“ I have of the obligations I owe to your father’s
“ service determined me to exert my utmost
“ endeavours to gratify your desires. While I
“ continued in your father’s service, I was treated
“ rather with the kindness and indulgence shewn
“ to a child, than with the haughtiness and severity
“ usually exercised towards a slave, and at
“ last, as a reward for my faithful services, he
“ not only gave me my freedom, but recommend-
“ ed me to the sophy, by whose favour I rose
“ to several posts of considerable trust and dig-
“ nity. Happy had it been for myself, that I
“ had prescribed bounds to my ambition; or at
“ least that I had taught it to flow in the channel
“ marked out by your father. I have had great
“ reason to repent my not having followed his
“ advice; for though in the path chalked out
“ by myself, I have attained an envied pre-emi-
“ nence, I have found it a very dangerous one;
“ since my office not only obliges me to be often
“ under the eye of a master whose temper is
“ suspicious and whose power is absolute, but
“ my situation furnishes me with almost perpetual
“ incentives to desires which I cannot restrain,
“ and yet am unable to gratify, at the same
“ time that I am subjected to the caprices of
“ female tyranny, which I can only revenge by
“ a stricter vigilance, and by that rigid severity
“ which will always be disagreeable to a ge-
“ nerous mind. Be assured of it however, my
“ dear Rhedi, that however strictly I may watch
over

“ over the conduct of many of the ladies of
“ the haram, whose infamous amours deserve
“ detection and punishment, I will do all in
“ my power to contribute to the success of
“ your passion for Selima, which, as it meets
“ with such a fervent return upon her part, it
“ were a pity it should not be rewarded with
“ the mutual possession of each other. As you
“ wish to obtain this happiness, take care that
“ you be not seen by the Vizier, or any
“ whom you have reason to suspect to be his
“ emissaries; if this should happen, you are un-
“ done. In order therefore to prevent your
“ being known or distinguished, you must
“ for the present resolve to give up your mer-
“ cantile profession, and never stir abroad with-
“ out the utmost caution, and when I have con-
“ certed measures for your seeing Selima, I
“ will call for you at your lodgings, in order
“ to acquaint you of the time.”

“ I thanked Obeyd for his prudent advice,
“ which I promised invariably to follow ; then
“ taking an opportunity of introducing a con-
“ versation, which to me was peculiarly inter-
“ esting, Obeyd, said I, since you have con-
“ descended to favour with your protection
“ and friendship, one who, till he saw you,
“ was the unhappiest of mortals, will you
“ excuse my desire to know the particulars of
“ Selima's fate, and how she has been able
“ in the place where she now is, to preserve
“ her virtue inviolate from the assaults of un-
“ governable passion armed with absolute
“ power.” “ I readily excuse your anxiety,”
“ replied he, “ and will gratify it immediate-
“ ly”.

“ When Selima was brought into the presence of the Sophy and her veil was unmoved, she appeared drowned in tears ; but her tears, instead of diminishing, seemed to increase the lustre of her beauty, which shone through the pearly drops that trickled down her cheeks, as the sun shines forth after the showers of spring. The emperor, dazzled by the splendor of her charms, and at once overcome by the power of love, resigned himself wholly to the empire of this pleasing but tormenting passion, making it his sole study to conciliate those affections, which he perceived to be placed on another object. He has never intermitted his addresses, however, but urges his suit with the most fervent importunity. While he was yesterday pleading for a return to his passion with all the respect and ardour of an enraptured lover, Selima, prostrating herself at his feet, exclaimed with the utmost earnestness, “—Let not the successor of Ali, and the sovereign of the faithful, on whose nod depends the fate of nations, and for whose smiles the greatest beauties of the universe languish with desire, look with such complacency on a reptile of the dust, or throw away his regard on one alienated heart, but let him leave his slave, who is unworthy of his notice, to her own unhappy fate, till death put a period to her life and misery at once.”—Upon hearing this account of the constancy of Selima, and that for my sake she had rejected the preferred vows of the emperor of Persia, I burst into a mingled transport of love and gratitude, of joy and grief, then addressing myself to the supreme lord of the universe, as the witness of our plighted engagements, “ Merciful Allah,” cried I, “ who amidst the wonder-
“ ful

“ful and often unaccountable dispensations of
“thy providence shewest a special regard to
“the happiness of the upright and the just, do
“thou grant that our mutual vows may be
“crowned with success, and that as our hearts
“are irrevocably joined our fates and fortunes
“may be inseparably united” “But I interrupt
“your relation,” said I; “be so good as to
“inform me, how the Sophy bore the mortifi-
“cation of his slighted love?” He appeared,”
“replied Obeyd, to feel some resentment from
“the wound which Selima had given to his
“pride, and expressed the utmost uneasiness as
“finding that his passion had met with no other
“return but that of indifference and aversion.
“He said, he was not ignorant, that her af-
“fections were pre-engaged, and that he knew
“upon whose account all his vows and promis-
“es were disregarded; but he bid her consider,
“that as he would never resign the possession of
“those charms, of which the emperor of Persia
“alone was worthy, to any potentate upon
“earth, much less to one of his own slaves
“whether it were not better to listen to his suit,
“and by doing so, enjoy both empire and love,
“than to rouse the fury of his lust and revenge,
“which might prove equally fatal to herself
“and her lover.” On uttering these words, he
“went out of the room somewhat hastily and
“abruptly, leaving Selima overwhelmed with
“grief, which affected me so sensibly, that I
“could not help mingling my sighs and tears
“with hers.—But as mere sympathy with
“the misfortunes of others, though pleasing to
“the sufferers, is of little consequence with-
“out some exertion for their relief, I have
“never ceased, since I first became acquaint-
“ed with her, to employ my invention in
“devising the means of her escape, and Pro-

“vidence seems now by your unexpected arrival in this place, to favour us with an opportunity of effectuating it. I have already concerted a rude plan for this purpose, which I will communicate to you at our next interview. My duty, at present, requires my attendance in the haram: to-morrow evening you may expect me to call for you at your own lodgings. Then bidding me good night, he left me without allowing me time, either to express my gratitude for his generous offices, or to ask him to unfold the scheme he had concerted for accomplishing the deliverance of Selima.”

“My mind was in too much agitation to admit of my enjoying any sleep that night. My imagination, naturally sanguine, flattered me with a prospect of yet recovering the sole object of my affections; and I spent the night in golden dreams of my future felicity and in anxious expectation of a visit from Obeyd, whom I considered as the person destined to fulfill all my wishes.”

“Obeyd, punctual to his time, called next evening at my lodgings; and finding me in a musing posture,—Rouse yourself,” said he, “Rhedi, from those deliriums of love into which you are lulled by your passion for Selima. The present juncture is the hour of danger, the crisis of action and enterprise, and must not be wasted in those pleasing but delusive reveries, which absorb the faculties in useless contemplation of ideal felicity, while they should be braced for a vigorous exertion and employed in providing against those disastrous contingencies, which

“ which may blast the fairest blossoms in the
“ garden of hope.”——“ I felt the justness of
“ the rebuke, and awaking as it were from
“ the delicious dream which I had been in-
“ dulgling, I started up on my feet, and em-
“ bracing Obeyd with all the ardour of the most
“ affectionate gratitude, “ Your reproaches, my
“ friend,” said I, “ are just ; but the en-
“ chantment that locked up my faculties, is
“ broke at once by the force of your remon-
“ strances ; I this moment shake off the indo-
“ lence with which you charge me, and stand
“ prepared for engaging in any enterprize,
“ however perilous, for accomplishing the ob-
“ ject of my wishes,” “ Listen then,” replied
“ he, “ to the scheme which for this purpose I
“ am going to communicate to thee.

“ I told Selima to-day, that as she appeared
“ to have an unsurmountable aversion to the
“ Sophy, and had no prospect of ever being
“ united to Rhedi, I hoped she would forgive
“ me, if I took the liberty to recommend a
“ friend of mine to her as a lover, who was ir-
“ refutably struck with her charms, and would
“ hazard his life to effectuate her deliverance.
“ I assured her, that he was one of the most a-
“ greeable and accomplished men I had ever
“ seen ; that I was persuaded, she would be of
“ the same opinion when she had become ac-
“ quainted with him ; and that therefore, if
“ she would give me leave, I would find means
“ to introduce him to her this evening. To
“ this proposal she gave just such an answer as
“ I expected from her. She told me that she
“ was sorry to discover her mistake, that till
“ then she had always considered me as her
“ friend ; that she was now however sufficiently
“ convinced of the contrary, and desired I would
“ talk

“ talk to her no more upon such a subject, otherwise she would instantly acquaint the Sophy of my intended treachery, who would not fail to inflict the punishment due to such infidelity. She added, that as I knew her heart was irrevocably attached to you, it was intolerable presumption and insolence in me to propose to her another lover; then assuming a severe and menacing air, “ Be gone,” said she, “ this moment from my presence, unworthy as thou art either of my confidence or esteem, and take care never to mention thy friend to me as a lover, if thou wishest to avoid the effects of my resentment and revenge. “

“ Though I appeared to be greatly abashed and disconcerted by the severity of this rebuke, and immediately left her apartment, I determined to prosecute my plan, and as you are the person whom I intend to introduce to her as a lover, I expect that you will act your part properly: since the unraveling of the plot will produce the most agreeable deception to Selima, which she ever experienced, I hope I shall be forgiven by you both for using a little innocent artifice in the conduct of it. “

“ As I anticipated in my imagination the mutual raptures which would be the consequence of the elucidation of the plot, I entered eagerly into it, and promised that I would act my part to his satisfaction, desiring he would acquaint me in what manner he proposed I should perform it. “ Within two hours,” said he, “ when it is dark, I will send you a suit of cloaths belonging to one of the eunuchs, carefully packed up, “ which

“ which you will put on, remembering to
“ bring your own, packed up in the same man-
“ ner, under your arm, and come without
“ fear to the gate of the palace: your disguise
“ will impose upon the guards, and procure
“ your admission. As soon as I perceive you
“ approaching, I will call upon you by the
“ name of some of the eunuchs, desiring you to
“ quicken your pace, as if your attendance
“ were immediately wanted, and having fol-
“ lowed me into a room adjoining to the ap-
“ parment of Selima, I will furnish you with
“ another suit, in which you are to appear be-
“ fore the enchantress of your soul. With re-
“ gard to the other circumstances, you may
“ leave them to me to manage, as time and
“ exigencies may require.”

“ Having given me these instructions, he
“ left me immediately, and in about two
“ hours after, according to his promise, he
“ sent me the cloaths of an eunuch wrapped up
“ as he had told me, and arraying myself in
“ my new habit at the same time that I folded
“ up my own, as I had been directed, I set
“ out without loss of time for the palace,
“ where I readily obtained admittance, and
“ being recognized at a distance by Obeyd,
“ who was watching my approach, he called
“ out to me to make haste, as I was just now
“ wanted by one of the ladies of the haram.
“ I obeyed the call without delay, and follow-
“ ing Obeyd with a mixed emotion of hope,
“ fear, and joy, I at last arrived at an apart-
“ ment adjoining to the one that I was told
“ was possessed by Selima. On entering this
“ apartment, Obeyd pointed out to me a suit
“ of cloaths, which, from the fineness of the
“ vesture and richness of the embroidery, I
“ perceived

“perceived to belong to the Sophy.” “Exchange once more the garb which you now wear, for that which I present you with,” said he; “you shall have the honour to appear in the habit of the Sophy, and you shall, in a little, enjoy a happiness which the Sophy himself, with all his power and grandeur, could never attain. You will likewise derive another advantage from this garb, and that is, that it will screen you from any unreasonable intrusion during your conference with Selima.”

“Being arrayed in this magnificent habit, I followed Obeyd into the apartment of Selima. As I advanced, the palpitation of my heart redoubled, an universal tremor seized my nerves, and I was scarce able, with all the fortitude and presence of mind I could muster up, to sustain the character I had assumed with any degree of dignity. Obeyd having opened the door of the room, I entered, and casting my eyes around in search of the beloved idol of my soul, I observed her repoling herself on a sofa, wrapped in pensive melancholy, and exhibiting in her countenance an air of deep dejection and grief that penetrated my heart. As I approached to the sofa on which Selima reclined, she rose up hastily, believing me to be the Sophy, and prostrated herself before me. At that instant Obeyd re-entered the room, and coming up to Selima,” “As I knew the addressee of the emperor, madam, to be so disagreeable to you, I asked your permission to introduce another lover to you; who, I was persuaded, would be more successful in his endeavours to gain your affections; but you persisted in refusing”

“sing to listen to my request. I have ventured, however to disobey your orders, but hope you will forgive my transgression, as I am willing to pawn my life that the person whom I have the honour to introduce to you, will have the good fortune to win those affections which the Sophy solicited in vain; and though he at present appears in a garb that is calculated rather to inspire fear than confidence, and rather aversion than love, I have not the least doubt that when the disguise, which he now wears, is removed, you will no more regret the loss of your Rhedi.” “Obeyd then plucking off the mask which he had caused me to throw over my face, in order to prevent my being known on my entrance into the room.” “Tell me now, Selima,” said he, “whether or not I have forfeited my life, which I ventured to pledge on your acquiescence in my choice of a lover for you.” “Blessed Allah!” cried she, it is Rhedi, it is Rhedi himself” —She could utter no more—Overpowered with the violent emotions which agitated her mind, she fainted away in my arms, till the tender Obeyd, suspecting the event of our interview, applied to her mouth and nostrils an essence of a strong aromatic smell, restored her to her senses in a moment. When she had recovered, we embraced each other with a rapture which it is impossible to express, and continued for some time locked in each others arms, while at one time she cast upon me a look of the most bewitching tenderness and love, and at another, upon Obeyd a look of mingled complacency and gratitude, that indicated the feelings of her heart; then addressing herself to our common friend and benefactor,

C 5.

“Kind

“ Kind and generous Obeyd,” said she, is this
“ the lover you have provided for me as a ri-
“ val to the Sophy of Persia. You have given
“ me a lover,” added she, “ my worthy friend,
“ whom I prefer to all the kings and emperors
“ on earth. But tell me, my dear Rhedi, how
“ have you made your escape from the horri-
“ ble dungeon where I was told you was con-
“ fined? and how have you obtained access
“ to this place, which you cannot but know
“ must be attended with dreadful and immi-
“ nent danger, that makes me shudder to think
“ of?”

“ My escape from the dungeon you speak
“ of,” replied I, “ my dear Selima, I was en-
“ abled, through the assistance of Providence,
“ to accomplish in a manner which I shall af-
“ terwards relate to you; access to this place
“ was procured me by the address and exerti-
“ on of our mutual friend and benefactor who
“ who is now before you, a favour that he has
“ purchased for us at the expence of his own
“ life.” “ Worthy Obeyd,” said Selima, “ how
“ shall we be able to thank you in a manner
“ suitable to the favours you have conferred
“ upon us, and to the risk at which they have
“ been purchased! O continue to heighten our
“ obligations and our gratitude, by exerting
“ your endeavours in favouring our escape
“ from this detestable place, and then we will
“ owe you not only the enjoyment of life but
“ love; and you will enjoy the happiness of
“ uniting two of the most constant hearts which
“ were ever formed for each other.” “ I
“ would not have engaged in so perilous an
“ undertaking,” rejoined Obeyd, “ if I had
“ not resolved to endeavour to accomplish it,
“ at whatever risk, and if I am so happy as to
“ succeed

“ succeed in it, the reflection of having contributed to reunite two such faithful lovers, will amply compensate both the labour and danger attending on the execution of the design. I must further acquaint you, that I intend to share your fortunes, and to make my escape along with you from a court where the pre-eminence I have attained has become distasteful, and where the office and employment in which I am engaged, though of considerable dignity, is often very contrary to my natural disposition; and I propose in some sequestered retreat to lead a retired life with you, hoping in the evening of my days to reap more solid tranquillity and happiness from the pursuit of virtue in the shade of privacy, than I have ever found in the glare and bustle of public life.”

“ This intimation of Obeyd’s intention of accompanying us in our flight gave both Selima and me the greatest pleasure, and we could not help congratulating ourselves on the felicity of carrying along with us a man whose society would be as agreeable as his advice would be beneficial to us. He then told us, that he would acquaint us of the particulars of his plan of life, after we had made our escape, and got out of danger; that at present, environed as we were with perils on all hands, there was no time to be lost, and that therefore we should endeavour instantly, with all imaginable secrecy and expedition, to make our escape, for the accomplishing of which, he informed us, that he had brought small ropes along with him, which he proposed to fasten to the inside of the window by means of an iron hook that he had fixed to them, and desired that

“ Selima

“ Selima and I would walk into an adjoining clo-
 “ set, from the window of which he was of opi-
 “ it would be most proper to descend. He
 “ advised that I should in the first place make
 “ the experiment, that Selima should follow
 “ me, as I could receive her in my arms at the
 “ foot of the palace wall, and he himself re-
 “ solved to be last in making this hazardous
 “ descent. The rope was just fastened in the
 “ manner directed by Obeyd, the window
 “ was lifted up, and I was preparing to slide
 “ down into the garden, when an alarm was
 “ given from one of the adjoining apartments,
 “ and we distinctly heard the Sophy calling
 “ aloud, in an angry and terrible tone, to some
 “ of the eunuchs in waiting, “ Haste, slaves,
 “ and summon the guard this moment to at-
 “ tend your master into the apartments of
 “ Selima.

“ Had the terrible Zachis * burst that mo-
 “ ment through the walls of the haram, armed
 “ like a messenger of wrath, and ready with his
 “ uplifted arm to execute the purposes of divine
 “ vengeance, his appearance could not have
 “ struck our hearts with greater consternation
 “ and dread than the voice of the Sophy sound-
 “ ing in our affrighted ears. Both Selima, and
 “ I, overwhelmed with horror, and petrified by
 “ the dreadful accents which we had heard,
 “ were for some time incapable either of devi-
 “ sing or executing a plan for our escape. Hap-
 “ pily for us, Obeyd possessed a degree of cool-
 “ ness and presence of mind that in such a situ-
 “ ation was perfectly astonishing. Catching

* The genius employed in inflicting punishment on the
 guilty.

“ me up instantly into his arms, he pushed me
“ out at the window, desiring me to hold fast
“ the rope till I reached the garden, when he
“ would let it drop down to me, and advising
“ me to make use of it in scaling the walls of
“ the garden, as a search would probably be
“ made for me; and he assured me, that he
“ would endeavour to contrive the means of
“ Selima's escape, who along with himself he
“ hoped would soon follow me, and meet me
“ at the north-side of the garden, either this
“ night, or to-morrow about this time.—There
“ was no time for deliberation, and I was in too
“ much perplexity and terror to be able to de-
“ liberate; I gave myself up therefore impli-
“ citly to the direction of Obeyd, and catching
“ hold of the rope, I slid down into the garden
“ in an instant. As soon as I had reached the
“ ground, Obeyd immediately loosed the rope,
“ and let it drop at the foot of the wall. Hav-
“ ing wound it up hastily, I stole unperceived
“ by any one to the north wall of the garden,
“ and fixing the hook which was upon the end
“ of the rope upon the top of the wall, I climb-
“ ed up with some difficulty; then changing
“ the direction of the hook, by fastening it on
“ the inside, I slid down softly to the ground.

“ I was now out of the reach of danger; but
“ alas! what pleasure could I derive from the
“ contemplation of my own safety, while the
“ treasure of my soul was shut up in the haram
“ of the Sophy of Persia, and an insuperable
“ bar seemed to be placed betwixt us, which
“ precluded all hopes of access to her? My im-
“ agination exhibited the most dreadful and
“ shocking scenes to my view. I fancied the
“ furious Sophy entering the apartments of Se-
“ limā with an armed guard: I represented
“ the

“ the dear creature prostrate at his feet, the
“ angry monarch leaning over her with a dag-
“ ger pointed at her breast, demanding the dis-
“ covery of her lover, and threatening her
“ with instant death, if she refused to inform
“ him. While these horrible images occurred to
“ my mind, I accused myself of pusillanimity,
“ in providing for my own safety at the very
“ time that Selima was exposed to the Sophy’s
“ rage. “ How,” said I to myself, “ could
“ I be so dastardly, as meanly to consult my
“ own safety, while my beloved Selima was in
“ circumstances of the most imminent danger?
“ Why did not I stay to protect her from the
“ violence, or die in her defence?”—I was con-
“ vinced however, upon the slightest reflection,
“ that my staying in the palace a few moments
“ longer must have been attended with the
“ most fatal consequences both to Selima,
“ Obeyd, and myself, and that the wisest
“ course I could possibly take, in order to pro-
“ vide for our common safety, was to comply
“ with the instructions of Obeyd, by making
“ my escape with the utmost expedition. Every
“ thought, however, of the dangerous situation
“ of Selima planted a dagger in my heart,
“ which was torn by the cruel conflict of con-
“ tending passions, of love and jealousy, anx-
“ iety and suspense, of hatred and revenge,
“ which alternately reigned in my soul in their
“ utmost fury. In this tumult of the passions,
“ my only recourse was in the care of Provi-
“ dence, and in the caution and address of the
“ prudent Obeyd. Blessed Allah!” cried I,
“ whose providential interposition I have so
“ signally experienced, both in suggesting the
“ means of my deliverance from the dungeon
“ in which I was confined, and in effectuating
“ my late escape from the dangers to which I
“ was

“ was exposed in the palace, do thou exert
“ thy omnipotent arm in the defence of my be-
“ loved Selima, restore her inviolate, together
“ with Obeyd our common friend, to the dis-
“ console Rhedi.”

“ While I was thus giving vent to the emo-
“ tions of my heart, and putting up my fervent
“ prayers to heaven for the protection of Selima
“ and Obeyd in a retired corner without the
“ garden walls, where I was concealed from
“ the view of any one that might pass the way,
“ I heard the bolt of the garden door which was
“ next me turned. I saw the door open; I ob-
“ served two persons, whose appearance I could
“ not yet distinguish, coming out, and shutting
“ the door after them, and heard them softly
“ whispering to each other. Hope and fear
“ took alternate possession of my heart, which
“ at one time bounded with joy at the prospect
“ of discovering the unknown persons to be Se-
“ limina and Obeyd, at another recoiled with
“ dread at the thoughts of a mistake. I had re-
“ flection enough however to lie still in the
“ place where I was hid, in expectation of their
“ coming nearer me, when I could more dis-
“ tinctly recognize them. What I wished for
“ happened immediately. Passing within a few
“ yards of me, I discovered, to my inexpress-
“ sible mortification, that the persons whom I
“ had seen coming out of the garden were one
“ of the ladies of the haram and her lover, who
“ had made their escape together, and, as I
“ learned from their conversation, had appoint-
“ ed a servant with two horses to meet them
“ in a spot near to that where I had been con-
“ cealed. Deeply affected with this cruel dis-
“ appointment, I resolved to lie quiet in the
“ place where I was till I could remove from
“ it

“ it with more safety. In a few minutes after
“ the lady and her lover had passed by me, I
“ heard the bolt of the garden door which was
“ next me again turned, and I saw two per-
“ sons, whose appearance I could not yet dis-
“ tinguish, come out; who, walking along the
“ outside wall of the garden, approached to-
“ wards the place of my retirement. Having
“ advanced a few paces farther, they stopped
“ and looked around them as if they waited for
“ somebody. My heart again throbbed with
“ expectation, and I was again on the rack of
“ suspense, but had reflection enough to lie
“ close in hopes of making a discovery of the
“ persons who were so near me, by their dis-
“ course. My suspense was removed in an in-
“ stant, by hearing one of them say to the o-
“ ther, “ It is in vain for us to expect to ap-
“ prehend Selima’s lover, he has escaped under
“ favour of the night, and will defy our
“ search:” We must obey the orders we have
“ received however,” replied the other, and
“ continue our search in the track pointed out
“ to us.” They then walked forward, passing
“ within a few yards of me, while I lay still,
“ congratulating myself upon the escape I had
“ made, though I had still apprehensions of
“ their returning the same way, and, by step-
“ ping a little off the road, of their stumbling
“ over me in the place where I lay, in which
“ case I was determined to make the best
“ defence I was able, with a dagger which
“ I had under my cloaths, and which was
“ the only weapon I had. While I was
“ revolving the danger of my situation, I
“ heard the clashing of swords at a little
“ distance, and it immediately occurred to
“ my mind, that the two persons sent in
“ search of me, had come up with the lady and
“ her

“ her lover, who had lately passed this way.
“ Indigated by the desire, which in a greater or
“ less degree is felt by every one possessed of
“ the slightest spark of generosity of sentiment,
“ of interposing in defence of the weaker party
“ against the assaults of those who intend their
“ destruction, and touched with the strongest
“ sensations of sympathy on account of the
“ danger of the unhappy fair, sensations which
“ were probably heightened by the resemblance
“ of their situation to my own, I started up in
“ an instant, and determined to exert the ut-
“ most of my interest and skill in their favour;
“ I rushed towards the place where I heard
“ the clashing of the swords; but was at once
“ stopped in my career by a loud call from se-
“ veral persons behind me to take the young
“ man, if possible, alive; and by a shout of
“ exultation which I heard, I concluded he was
“ taken. Struck as I was with consternation
“ and pity, I had just reflection enough to con-
“ sult my own safety, in a case where I was
“ conscious my interposition could be of no
“ avail, as by this time I could perceive an
“ armed guard coming up as fast as they were
“ able. Turning hastily aside therefore, I
“ clapped close to the ground among the bush-
“ es, where I had before lain concealed, and
“ waited the issue of this dangerous adventure
“ with a throbbing heart. I had scarce taken
“ the necessary precautions for securing my-
“ self from the view of the party which I had
“ seen coming up, when I observed them to the
“ number of eight persons, all armed, run
“ quickly by me without seeming to have the
“ least suspicions of my being there, and
“ meeting their companions by the way with
“ the unfortunate young man and women whom
“ they had seized, they all returned together
“ to

“ to the palace. After the guard were re-
“ moved a considerable distance from me, I
“ begun to ruminate on the incident of which
“ I had been a witness, and though I could
“ not help feeling the strongest commiseration
“ for the lover and his mistress, upon account
“ of the deplorable fate to which they would
“ be subjected, yet I began to perceive with
“ an emotion of joy blended with pity for the
“ unhappy sufferers, that the apprehension of
“ these, by convincing the Sophy of Selima’s
“ innocence, and consequently of slackening
“ his vigilance, might be a means of facilitat-
“ ing the escape both of her and Obeyd. I
“ continued therefore to lie close in my place,
“ eagerly watching for their appearance,
“ though without much hope of being blessed
“ with a sight of them at that time, till the ap-
“ proach of dawn obliged me to leave my
“ station, and after sauntering sometime through
“ the streets of Ispahan where I was in least
“ hazard of being known, I went into one of
“ the caravanseras of the city, where I spent
“ the day in much inquietude and anxiety
“ about the fate of Selima and Obeyd; and
“ at night returning to the north side of the
“ garden adjoining to the haram, I took my
“ post of observation in the place where I
“ had been the night before. After waiting
“ about two hours I heard the garden door
“ once more turning upon its hinges, and look-
“ ing earnestly towards it I saw a person peep-
“ ing out and returning again, as if afraid to
“ venture farther. A little after I observed
“ two persons come out of the door, and walk
“ close by the outside wall of the garden, while
“ they sometimes stood looking around them
“ as if they apprehended themselves in danger
“ of being discovered, at other times softly
“ whispering

“whispering to each other, though they were
“not as yet near enough to be heard. The
“same passions, which the night before had
“agitated my heart with such violence, again
“resumed their empire, and kept me once
“more on the rack of suspense. To this tor-
“turing suspense however succeeded in a little
“the most transporting joy, on hearing the
“lady as she passed near me saying, in a low
“tone of voice, “Alas, my Rhedi is gone,
“and he will not know where to find us.” She
“had scarce uttered these words, when spring-
“ing up in an instant from the place where I
“had hid myself, I went up hastily, but softly,
“to her, and seizing her hand, “Thy Rhedi,”
“said I whispering to her, “is still here,
“and has been anxiously waiting for his love-
“ly Selima; praise be to Allah who has once
“more united them and given them so faithful
“a friend (squeezing the hand of Obeyd) for a
“companion in their flight”—“Selima trans-
“ported at the sudden and in some measure
“unexpected interview, could scarce restrain
“the joy she felt within any moderate bounds;
“but Obeyd cautioning us to beware of giv-
“ing vent so unseasonably to the emotions of
“our hearts, we recollected ourselves im-
“mediately and restrained their indulgence.

“I then told Obeyd, as we walked along,
“the various scenes I had been a witness of.
“I acquainted him of my discovery of one of
“the ladies of the haram and her paramour, of
“the manner in which they were apprehended
“by the guard, and of the narrow escape I
“myself had made by lying concealed among
“bushes just by the side of the road, along
“which they went. “Both your escape and
“ours,” replied Obeyd, “has been wonder-
“ful.”

ful; in the mean time let us proceed to the place of our destination as expeditiously as possible, and we will then moralize upon the circumstances of our escape with gratitude to Allah, who has hitherto conducted us through surrounding perils." Then fetching a circuit along the bank of the Zenderoudk, we arrived at a house in the extremity of the city, which Obeyd told us was inhabited by one of the name of Raschid, in whom he could thoroughly confide, and where he said he had ordered camels to be in readiness for us at a minute's warning. When we had got into the house, Obeyd communicated to us the particulars of the plan he had concerted for securing our escape, and for preventing our being discovered in the course of our intended journey. He told us that Mount Ararat on the confines of Persia and Armenia was the destined period of our travels; that there lived a venerable hermit in that mountain, the intimate friend of his father Amroud, and to whose excellent instructions he himself was indebted for the first rudiments of virtue, with whom they could lead a tranquil and retired life, and that the safest way of proceeding upon their journey towards the place of their destination was for all of them to assume the character and habit of Armenian merchants travelling with the commodities of Persia to their own country. He added, that he had provided the dress requisite to each of us, together with several bales of silk, which were to load our camels, and that it was necessary we should array ourselves in the new habits he had provided for us, and set out immediately. When Selima heard of the disguise which Obeyd desired her to assume, she discovered a strong reluctance

“ ance to the proposal from the natural modesty and feminine delicacy of her mind; but
“ on my expostulating with her a little, and
“ shewing the absolute necessity of complying
“ with it for our common safety, she agreed to
“ yield to our mutual desires. While Obevd
“ and I were equipping ourselves in the habit
“ of Armenian merchants, Selima having retired
“ to another room for the same purposes,
“ anxious to know the manner in which she and
“ Obevd escaped from the palace environed
“ with such dreadful danger as I left them in,
“ I intreated the latter to gratify my curiosity
“ by giving me a relation of it.

“ Our escape,” replied Obevd, “ was effectuated by a concurrence of circumstances
“ which shewed a particular interposition of
“ Allah in our favour.

“ After the alarm that was given by Almalek, which threw us all into such consternation; the first thing I thought of was the
“ removing you out of the way, being sensible
“ that your being discovered in the haram
“ would have terminated in the destruction of
“ us all. Having happily accomplished this
“ object by letting you down with a rope into
“ the garden, I slipped into my own apartments,
“ which were not far from those of Selima, by
“ a private door, as fast as possible, and rushing out again, as if alarmed by the noise,
“ and in obedience to the hasty call of the Sophy, I was met on the top of the stair by the
“ Sophy himself, who called to his guards, several of whom were, by that time, around
“ him to secure the traitor, pointing to me;
“ and then, selecting four of the stoutest and
“ most faithful of his followers, he desired
“ them

“ them instantly to attend him into the appart-
 “ ments of Selima, carrying me along with
 “ them, who was now alarmed with the appre-
 “ hensions both of Selima’s danger, and my own:
 “ I began to dread that you had been discovered
 “ in the disguise of an eunuch, by some person
 “ who had given information of your being ad-
 “ mitted in that disguise into the haram, and
 “ though I was in hopes of your effectuating
 “ your entire escape, yet I was afraid that the
 “ information which Almalek had received,
 “ would impress him with such a conviction of
 “ Selima’s guilt and mine, as to determine him
 “ to order us both to be put to instant death.
 “ Dangerous as my own situation was, I trem-
 “ bled for the fate of the unhappy Selima.

“ The enraged Sophy, marching forwards to
 “ her apartments with a drawn sabre in his
 “ hand, burst at once into the room where she
 “ was, and was immediately followed by his
 “ guards, conducting me as their prisoner.
 “ When they entered the room Selima was ly-
 “ ing on a sofa, overwhelmed with grief and
 “ despair, casting her eyes, which expressed a
 “ kind of wild horror, on Almalek, who was
 “ approaching to her with the sword in his
 “ hand: she threw herself forward on the floor
 “ as she attempted to rise, and fainted away at
 “ the sight. The Sophy, holding the sword still
 “ suspended over her head while she lay pro-
 “ strate at his feet, “Think not,” said he, “base
 “ wretch (with a stern countenance, his eyes
 “ sparkling with fury) by a real or pretended
 “ swoon to escape the punishment due to a mis-
 “ creant who has polluted the haram of the So-
 “ phy of Persia by her scandalous amours.”
 “ Then turning to the guards, “Be quick
 “ slaves,” said he, “and search every corner
 “ in

“ in these apartments for the villain who has
“ dared sacrilegiously to enter these forbidden
“ walls, that I may blast him at once with the
“ lightning of my indignation.” After search-
“ ing every where in vain, one of the eunuchs,
“ whose name was Mahmud, whom I had pu-
“ nished some time before for his connivance at
“ the amours of one of the ladies of the haram,
“ and who since that time had, it seems,
“ watched for an opportunity of taking re-
“ venge, coming into the room hastily at that
“ instant, and prostrating himself before the
“ Sophy, “ Let the sovereign of the kings of
“ the earth,” said he, “ whose discerning eye
“ explores with infallible perspicacity the plots
“ of his enemies, and whose foot tramples on
“ the neck of arrogance, condescend to listen
“ to the information of his slave. The person
“ who, according to the intelligence I gave
“ thee, had audaciously entered the apartments
“ of the haram, is not to be found at present
“ within these walls, but has made his escape,
“ as I am assured, from one of the windows
“ by a rope into the garden.”

“ Almalek having got this intimation of your
“ escape, ordered the captain of the guard,
“ who was named Ashraf, to send out different
“ parties that moment to search the garden and
“ to scour the roads and fields in the neighbour-
“ hood, and to bring you to him if possible
“ alive. Then turning to me, “ As for thee,
“ thy treacherous and abhorred slave,” said he,
“ be assured that the severest tortures shall
“ be inflicted upon thee and upon that aban-
“ doned woman, whose intrigues thou hast at-
“ tempted to palliate. Thy tortures are only
“ respited till to-morrow on purpose to heigh-
“ ten them by anticipation, and to give time
“ for

“ for apprehending the accomplice of thy
 “ crimes, that I may let fly the bolts of my in-
 “ dignation against you all at once.” A denial
 “ of the crimes with which I had been im-
 “ peached, would at any rate, in the circum-
 “ stances I was placed in, have been an unpro-
 “ fitable falshood. Without attempting there-
 “ fore any vindication of my conduct, I prostra-
 “ ted myself before the Sophy in token of my
 “ submission to this sentence, but Almalek
 “ spurning me from him, ordered two of the
 “ guards to keep me secure in my own cham-
 “ bers; and having given the charge of Selima
 “ to some of the eunuchs who were present, he
 “ left the room in a rage.

“ All this time Selima continued in a swoon,
 “ and as there was now no prospect either be-
 “ fore her eyes or mine, but death in its most
 “ hideous form, I earnestly prayed, that she
 “ might pass off in one of these fainting fits,
 “ and by that means disappoint the cruel pur-
 “ poses of the tyrant.

“ What happened to her after I was carried
 “ away, I cannot indeed distinctly inform you
 “ of. She herself has since told me, that she
 “ relapsed from one swoon into another, that
 “ when she recovered she was for some time
 “ delirious, and that she could only remember
 “ that she now and then uttered your name and
 “ implored your aid and mine.

“ Though I had no hopes of our deliver-
 “ ance, I was afraid that Selima in the phren-
 “ zy of her grief and despair might drop some
 “ expression, that would preclude even the
 “ possibility of it. When I was shut up all a-
 “ lone in my own chamber, under custody of
 “ the

“ the guard that was set over me, and began
“ to ruminate on the dreadful circumstances of
“ our fate, my imagination anticipated all its
“ horrors, and I recoiled at the view of them
“ as one recoils from the brink of some tremendous precipice.

“ Had it been my destiny to suffer alone, I
“ could have sustained the tortures intended for
“ me with some degree of fortitude; but when
“ I considered that by my indiscreet counsel,
“ however well meant, I had involved Selima
“ and you in all the horrors of my fate, my
“ soul was overwhelmed with a weight of misery
“ which I was utterly unable to bear.
“ While I was reflecting on the calamities I
“ was like to be the instrument of entailing on
“ Selima and you, with an anguish that tortured
“ and wrung my heart, I heard a shout in
“ the garden, and in a moment after it was
“ proclaimed through the haram, that the lover
“ of Selima was taken. These dreadful tidings
“ consummated my misery; the most alarming
“ fears were according to my apprehension now
“ changed into the most frightful realities; and
“ I experienced at this moment the severest
“ pangs which can agitate and tear the human
“ heart. Blessed Allah! what a tide of joy
“ was diffused over my soul, on hearing it declared
“ the very next moment, that the person who was
“ apprehended was not the lover of Selima, but
“ another, who was caught without the walls of the
“ garden with one of the ladies of the haram.

“ My mind underwent at once a sudden transition
“ from the most excruciating grief to the most
“ rapturous joy, and I foresaw with an
“ inexpressible pleasure, that the suspicions
D which

“ which the Sophy had entertained of Selima’s
“ infidelity and of my treachery would now,
“ probably, by this providential discovery be
“ wholly removed; that the machinations of
“ Mahmud to my prejudice would be dissipat-
“ ed, and the vengeance he had meditated a-
“ gainst me would recoil with aggravated
“ weight on his own head. I offered up my
“ grateful acknowledgements to Allah for this
“ favourable turn in the crisis of our fate, and
“ fervently implored his aid in conducting it
“ to a happy issue.

“ While I was indulging the most transport-
“ ing hopes of a fortunate catastrophe to an
“ event so interesting to me, I once more heard
“ the Sophy, but in a less terrible tone than
“ formerly, calling upon the guard who had
“ me in custody to release me, and desiring me
“ to attend him into the apartments of Selima,
“ to which he himself led the way. Presaging
“ agreeable tidings, both from the tone of his
“ voice, and from his order to release me, I
“ eagerly sprung forward, and followed the
“ Sophy to the place to which I was direct-
“ ed.

“ In the mean time Selima, having the one
“ moment heard the melancholy news re-echo-
“ ing through the palace that her lover was seiz-
“ ed, the next that it was not her lover, but
“ another young man who was found with one
“ of the ladies of the haram without the garden
“ walls, experienced from these different relati-
“ ons the extremes of the most agonizing grief
“ and the most transporting joy. For some time
“ indeed the excess of both, by throwing her in-
“ to one swoon after another, had almost de-
“ prived her of all sensation of either; but af-
“ ter

“ter recovering from these, her feelings became
“exquisite ; though happily both for her and
“me, her attendants had mistaken the violent
“grief she at one time expressed upon your ac-
“count for the natural language of her own suf-
“ferings, aggravated by the thoughts of parting
“with you, and the raptures of joy she disco-
“vered at another for the exultation she might
“be supposed to feel, at the prospect of deliver-
“ance from the calamities to which she was
“exposed. Intimation however being sent her
“of the Sophy’s intended visit, she was compos-
“ed into a decent tranquility before his arri-
“val.—Upon his entrance into the room, Selima
“was going to prostrate herself ; but Alma-
“lek going up to her immediately, prevented
“her, and taking her by the hand, “Forgive,”
“said he, “lovely Selima, the injury I have
“done thee, in supposing thee guilty of a crime
“of which I now believe thee to be incapable.
“The trespass which I unjustly attributed to
“thee, I am now satisfied has been committed
“by one of the ladies of the haram, whom, to-
“gether with the vile slave her detested parra-
“mour, I am determined to punish in the most
“exemplary manner. The only reparation I
“can make for the injurious suspicions I lately
“entertained of thee, is to doom to death the
“wretch who dared to asperse thine unspotted
“character, which I have already done.”
“Then addressing himself to me, “Faithful
“Obeyd,” said he, “whose integrity I have
“often proved, let thy conduct be always as
“free from the stains of infidelity and treache-
“ry as it has been manifested to be upon this
“occasion, and thou shalt have no reason to
“complain of the influence of thine enemies to
“thy prejudice. I now reinstate thee in thy
“authority and offices ; to thy charge I com-

“ mit the treasure of my soul ; and remember
 “ that I depend upon thine assiduous endeavours
 “ to sooth my enchanting fair one into a com-
 “ pliance with my wishes.” Turning again to
 “ Selima, whose hand he softly squeezed and
 “ kissed, with an air of tenderness. Farewel,”
 “ said he, “ for the present, my dear Selima,
 “ I leave thee under the care of Obeyd, whom
 “ I know to be the most acceptable attendant
 “ I could esser, and whom I hope to find a
 “ successful advocate in favour of Almalek.”
 “ Selima having thanked the Sophy in the
 “ most respectful manner for his courtesy in
 “ leaving me for her attendant, and I having
 “ taken that opportunity of prostrating myself
 “ before him, and of making my humble ack-
 “ nowledgements for his goodness towards me,
 “ he took his leave of Selima, and left us to-
 “ gether.

“ You will easily conceive the transports of
 “ joy we both felt, on finding ourselves left
 “ alone at entire liberty, without a spy upon
 “ our actions, or the least suspicion of our de-
 “ signs ; and you will readily imagine that we
 “ did not lose much time in concerting the plan
 “ of our escape. As it is always disagreeable
 “ to a generous mind to disappoint the expecta-
 “ tions of those who trust to our fidelity, I
 “ will acknowledge, that the reflection on the
 “ breach of confidence we were going to com-
 “ mit by our elopement gave me some degree
 “ of uneasiness, and had the Sophy had any
 “ natural right to confine us in his haram,
 “ against our inclinations, and subject us to his
 “ will, it would have been criminal to violate
 “ the trust reposed in us : but as no man can
 “ have any such right over others, we found
 “ no difficulty about the unlawfulness of the
 “ action ;

“ action; and we were too intent upon recovering our liberty, and rejoining our friend to hesitate a moment about our resolution.

“ I told Selima, however, that as it was now near the approach of dawn and the report of your elopement, and the apprehension of Khosroff and Zosima had spread a general alarm through the haram, we might be discovered by some of the eunuchs or women, who perhaps were not yet recovered from their fright so far as to compose themselves for sleep, should we attempt to make our escape that night; and that it would be more prudent to defer our elopement till to-morrow about midnight, when I did not doubt of finding you without the north wall of the garden, according to the direction I had given you. Selima, though on the rack of impatience to accomplish our escape, readily acquiesced in this proposed delay, and we both waited with the utmost anxiety for the approach of night.

“ In the mean time the Sophy, whose love and attention to Selima seemed to have been redoubled, since his suspicions of her infidelity were removed, sent an eunuch to her next forenoon, asking permission to pay his respects to her.

“ Though Selima was really much hurt by the flutter and agitation of her spirits, occasioned by the sudden transports she had felt of grief and joy in their utmost extremes, I advised her to receive his visit, as it was probable that the Sophy, observing her in such distress, would soon leave her apartments. It happened just according to my conjecture. Almalek, greatly concerned for Selima's health;

" health, left her in a short time, ordering fe-
 " veral of his physicians to attend her ; but Se-
 " lima having expressed a desire to be left alone,
 " they retired, after administering a few cordi-
 " als, which were of some service to her ; and
 " we concerted together the plan of our escape.

" As I did not choose to attempt to procure
 " ropes for facilitating our escape, lest I should
 " by any means excite a suspicion of our inten-
 " tion, I supplied the want of them by a strata-
 " gem. Having cut the cordage from the so-
 " phas and the chairs in the room, I tied them
 " together, and having, after all the inhabitants
 " of the haram were asleep, fastened them to
 " one of the windows, I slid down by their
 " means into the garden, and Selima following
 " my example, I received her without any hurt
 " into my arms ; then walking together through
 " the most private avenues of the garden, we
 " came to the north door, and having opened it
 " with the key which I had taken care to pro-
 " cure for the purpose, we found you, to our
 " inexpressible joy, waiting for us on the out-
 " side of the wall.

" And now Rhedi," said the pious Obeyd,
 " let thy discerning eye trace out, and thy
 " grateful heart adore the gracious interposition
 " of Allah, both in the contrivance and con-
 " duct of the various circumstances that faci-
 " litated our escape.

" Thou stoodst on the hair-breadth of peril,
 " and Selima and I hung upon the brink of de-
 " struction, when the tremendous voice of Al-
 " malek burst upon our ears, summoning his
 " guards to attend him into the very room from
 " which thou wast to descend into the garden.
 " Hadst

" Hadst thou delayed making thy descent one
 " minute longer, we had all been involved in
 " one common ruin; thy danger without the
 " garden walls was no less imminent than in
 " the haram. Hadst thou not at the time when
 " thou wast running up to the assistance of the
 " distressed lovers, happened at some distance
 " to observe the rest of the guards advancing
 " to support their companions, or had any of
 " those guards happened to step aside a little
 " from the track in which they set out, and
 " stumble upon the place where thou wast con-
 " cealed, thou hadst infallibly been seized
 " and certain death would have been the por-
 " tion both of thee and thy friends.

" But the various circumstances which con-
 " curred to favour the escape both of Selima
 " and me indicated the interposition of Allah
 " in too remarkable a manner to be overlook-
 " ed.

" Zofima, one of the ladies of the haram,
 " whom thou sawest apprehended with her
 " lover Khosroff Khan, having for the sake of
 " that lover, and in order to obtain a release
 " from her confinement, attempted to poison the
 " Sophy, from whom she had received the most
 " distinguishing favours, and having been
 " strongly suspected of such an intention by one
 " of the eunuchs, from whom I had the relation,
 " she determined, in order to avoid the danger
 " that threatened her, to elope if possible with
 " Khosroff, whom she had brought into the
 " haram in disguise. They had made their
 " escape, it seems, a few minutes after you;
 " but they had escaped from the haram un-
 " discovered: you was the person, it appears,
 " who was observed to descend by a rope into

“ the garden ; you was the cause of that terrible alarm raised by the Sophy, when he summoned his guards to attend him ; and you was the only one whom those guards were sent in quest of, and whom Almalek wished to apprehend. But mark, Rhedi, with attention,” continued he, the destiny of Providence, and let vice tremble, lest the bolts of divine vengeance overtake her in the moment of security.

“ Khosroff and Zosima had escaped unobserved by any one without the walls of the garden, and thinking themselves out of the reach of danger, were preparing to mount their horses, without suspicion of fear, when they are arrested by the guards before they are aware, and conducted to prison, to await the punishment due to their crimes ; while thou, the object of the Sophy’s jealousy and revenge, escapedst falling into the hands of thy pursuers by a miracle.

“ The consequences of Khosroff and Zosima’s being apprehended, thou knowest, have turned out just according to our wishes. The suspicions of the Sophy were at once transferred from us to them ; Mahmud was punished as he deserved ; and we were acquitted. Really innocent in our conduct, we were believed by Almalek to be innocent of the attempts justly laid to our charge. By this means Selima and I obtained his confidence ; and by obtaining his confidence we effectuated our escape.

“ Thus does the all-wise and omnipotent Allah conduct the government of the moral world by springs imperceptible to our limited
“ view,

“ view, making the various events of his providence terminate in the protection and security of the virtuous ; while the slaves of vice and sensuality are often caught in their own toils, and overtaken in their career by the blast of unforeseen and irremediable destruction.”

“ Such was the improvement which the pious Obeyd made of the manner and circumstances of our escape. I was struck with the moral turn of his reflections ; I was convinced of and acknowledged their justness, and I clearly discerned the conducting hand of Allah in accomplishing our deliverance.

“ From a piece of intelligence we learned from our host, who happened at this instant to come into the room, we derived new ground of thankfulness for the superintendence of Providence in the conduct of our enterprize. Raschid told us, that last night about the very time he expected us, an eunuch had been sent by one of the ladies of the haram with a message to her lover, who lived in his neighbourhood, and that by mistake he had called at his house. On hearing this circumstance, we reflected, that had our first attempt to elope been successful, we had probably been discovered by the eunuch, and all our hopes had been frustrated at once.

“ After offering up our united tribute of praise to Allah for his signal interpositions hitherto in our favour, and particularly for rendering those events which we considered as most disastrous, finally subservient to our escape, and the very means of our deliverance we recommended ourselves to his pro-

“tection in the course of our future journey ;
 “and Obeyd having desired the camels to be
 “brought forth to him, ordered the servants to
 “go before with the baggage. Intimation
 “being given us that the camels were ready, I
 “went in order to acquaint Selima of it, whom
 “I found dressed in the new garb which we
 “had prevailed with her to assume ; on my en-
 “tering the room the blush of modesty glowed
 “in her cheek, and gave an additional lustre
 “to the splendor of her beauty, which might
 “have vied with that of the lovely compan-
 “ions of the Houn in the regions of paradise.
 “I clasped her in an ecstacy of joy and plea-
 “sure to my bosom, and flushed with the hopes
 “of a happy issue of our journey, we were
 “just going to set out, when an alarm was
 “given, that Obeyd and Selima had made an
 “elopement from the haram ; that a thousand
 “horsemen, who had orders to patrol along
 “the roads around the city, had been sent in
 “pursuit of them ; and that as many of the
 “royal body of foot-guards had instructions to
 “traverse the streets of Isphahan, and to make
 “the strictest search for the fugitives through
 “every suspected house in the city.

“This intelligence was like a dreadful thun-
 “derclap in our ears. Selima was terrified
 “beyond measure : her distracted imagination
 “exhibited nothing to view but pictures of hor-
 “ror and despair. She figured to herself the
 “guards at her heels, herself, Obeyd, and me
 “dragged by them, with every circumstance
 “of indignity and outrage, into the presence of
 “the furious Sophy, and subjected to the se-
 “verest tortures which his invention could sug-
 “gest. Obeyd however, with a presence of
 “mind that no accident could discompose, or-
 “dered

“ dered the camels to be unloaded and put
“ up immediately, and calling upon Raschid,
“ who to his natural sagacity joined a fertility
“ in stratagem, asked him whether there was
“ any place of concealment in his house,
“ where we could remain in safety till the
“ danger was over. Raschid told him there
“ was a vault below his parlour to which there
“ was a descent by a trap door, that was covered
“ from the view by a carpet spread over
“ it, where he imagined we would be safe;
“ that however, if he did not think they
“ would be perfectly secure in this vault, there
“ was still another below it, the entrance to
“ which was covered with a thin flat stone,
“ that had the appearance of being a part of
“ the pavement, where they would doubtless
“ be in absolute safety, but that as there was
“ no air communicated to this dungeon by any
“ conveyance whatever, it was impossible that
“ one person, much less three, could breathe
“ in it for any considerable time.

“ While Raschid was speaking, the tidings
“ reached our ears that the guards were scour-
“ ing the streets in our neighbourhood, and
“ driving like so many blood-hounds from house
“ to house in quest of us. We all rushed there-
“ fore into the parlour immediately; and Ras-
“ chid opening the trap-door, we descended into
“ the vault in an instant. Then Raschid having
“ raised the stone in the floor, which opened a
“ passage into the second, and having support-
“ ed it with a piece of wood which he had
“ brought in his hand, suggested to us, that in
“ case of necessity we could descend into it;
“ and he promised that if the first concealment
“ was discovered by the inquisitors, and they
“ proposed to ransack it, that he would give us
“ notice

“ notice of our danger, by suddenly overturn-
“ ing one of the tables in the room, as it were
“ by accident, on hearing which signal we
“ could descend into the dungeon, and let the
“ stone fall upon the mouth of it.

“ Both Obeyd and I approved highly of the
“ contrivance of Raschid, and thanked him for
“ his judicious advice. Just when he was leav-
“ ing us, however, in our prison, it occurred to
“ Obeyd, that there was a bundle of Selima’s
“ cloathes and ours wrapped up in the heart of
“ one of the bales of silk, and that if the
“ bales should happen to be unfolded by the e-
“ missaries of the Sophy, and the bundle found,
“ the whole affair would be discovered. He
“ begged Raschid therefore instantly to unclose
“ one of the bales to which he directed him,
“ and to take out and bring to him the bundle
“ he had mentioned. Raschid returned to us
“ with it immediately ; but had scarce deliver-
“ ed it, when we heard the guard knocking at
“ the gate, and calling for admittance. Spring-
“ ing up to the parlour, therefore, in a mo-
“ ment, without the least confusion, and letting
“ drop the trap-door, which he covered with a
“ carpet, he ran to the gate, and admitted the
“ guard into his house. The guard, having
“ with the utmost strictness ransacked every o-
“ ther corner, came at last into the parlour.
“ When Selima heard the sound of their feet a-
“ bove our heads, she quaked with fear, her
“ face became pale and bloodless, and she was
“ just ready to sink into a swoon, when we
“ heard the table fall. At that instant Obeyd
“ threw himself into the dungeon, and I catch-
“ ing Selima in my arms, let her slide down in-
“ to those of Obeyd ; and following them both,
“ let the stone down upon the mouth of the pit.

“ This

“ This was our last resource. While we were
“ shut up in this dark cave we still heard the
“ tread of our enemies feet, and one of them
“ calling for a light to search narrowly the sub-
“ terranean dwelling into which they had en-
“ tered. When I heard a light calling for, I
“ began indeed to tremble; Obeyd himself
“ was afraid; and Selima, by this time past
“ feeling, had fallen into a deep swoon. A
“ candle was brought: the reflection of its rays
“ cast a glimmering light on our dark retreat
“ Happening to look up to the crevice through
“ which the rays of light descended, I could
“ observe the faces of some of the guards, and
“ I even fancied they were gazing at me; but
“ my fears deceived me. These however were
“ removed in an instant, upon hearing them a-
“ gain ascend into the parlour; where, having
“ searched the bales of silk that were lying in
“ it, they left the house and proceeded in
“ their career.

“ As soon as the guard were without the
“ gate, Raschid returned to us immediately,
“ and raising the stone, released us from our
“ confinement. Selima was still in a swoon,
“ but recovered in a little after enjoying the
“ fresh air; and we all congratulated each
“ other upon our fortunate escape, ascribing
“ praise to Allah for the deliverance we had
“ met with.

“ We continued several days in the house of
“ Raschid, passing in the opinion of his servants
“ and neighbours for merchants travelling tow-
“ ards Armenia, who being supposed to be
“ friends of Raschid had lodged with him a few
“ nights by the way.

“ At

“ At last, when the noise of the search was
“ over, we set out on our journey for mount
“ Ararat, with the faithful Rasch'd and two
“ servants who were ignorant of our situation
“ and circumstances, along with three camels,
“ besides those on which we rode ; and travel-
“ ling with the utmost expedition, under favour
“ of the night, we arrived by break of day at
“ a wood about sixteen miles distance from
“ Isfahan. Selima, Obeyd, and I having con-
“ cealed ourselves in caves and holes through-
“ out the day, while Raschid undertook the
“ charge of the camels, we set out again on
“ our travels next evening, and before day-light
“ we were forty miles distant from the capital
“ of Persia. We proceeded on our journey in
“ this manner through the province of Eyrac
“ Agem, travelling all night, and resting
“ throughout the day in the most sequestered
“ places we could find, till we were at least
“ a hundred and fifty miles on our way to mount
“ Ararat.

“ In passing through Casbin, we heard im-
“ mense rewards proclaimed for apprehending
“ Selima, Obeyd, or me ; but as we were now
“ in a country in which we were wholly un-
“ known, and travelled in the disguise of mer-
“ chants, we were hopeful, by a cautious and
“ circumspective conduct, to escape detection.

“ After leaving Casbin, we directed our
“ course through the province of Ghilan, Adir-
“ butzan, and Sherivan ; in which last place
“ having sold our bales of silk, before we en-
“ tered Armenia, we dismissed the faithful
“ Raschid with the camels, rewarding him
“ liberally for his trouble, and each of us re-
“ suming his proper habit, travelled on foot
“ towards

“ towards mount Ararat, the place of our destination, which we reached in two days, having been in all about three weeks on our journey from Ispahan.—But lest I should exhaust your attention, or my own strength,” said Rhedi, “ I will here interrupt my narration, and after breathing a little, shall proceed to relate to you the subsequent events of my unfortunate life.”

AFTER pausing for some time, Rhedi again resumed the history of his life.

“ When we arrived at the foot of the mountain, and were viewing the long-extended forest before us, Obeyd pointing to a spot in the middle of it, which presented a small opening surrounded with trees, “ Yonder,” said he, in the depth of that embowering wood, lives the venerable sage Bondezir, the friend of my father, and the guide of my youth, on whose head the hand of time has strowed his silver honours, and whose soul is the mansion of wisdom and virtue; let us,” said he seek out his sequestered abode, and if it be agreeable to your inclinations, we will spend the remainder of our days with him in the tranquillity of retired life, from which, for my own part, I expect to reap more real felicity than I have ever experienced in the noise and bustle of a court.” Both Selima and I assured him, that nothing could be more agreeable to our choice than such a plan of life; that the luxuries to which we had been accustomed had not so far
“ vitiated

“ vitiated our taste as to destroy our relish for
“ those pure and simple pleasures which are
“ the effect of innocency, temperance, and virtue,
“ and which are most effectually cultivated in the
“ shade of retirement ; and that we wished for
“ nothing so much as to be placed in a situation
“ in which we might cultivate those pleasures
“ with most advantage, and indulge the genuine
“ feelings of the heart without disguise.” “ If
“ these are your sentiments and resolutions,, ”re-
“ sumed Obeyd, “ let us penetrate the recesses
“ of this forest, and endeavour to find out the cell
“ of Bondezir.”

“ Accordingly we immediately entered the
“ wood, in which we found many by-paths,
“ that would have bewildered a traveller that
“ was unacquainted with the place ; but as
“ the forest was well known to Obeyd, on ac-
“ count of his frequent visits to the hermit in
“ his youth, we travelled safely under his di-
“ rection, and at last reached the spot which
“ has afforded you this homely but welcome
“ reception.

“ We entered the cell with that reverence
“ which was due to the wisdom and sanctity of
“ its owner ; but the hermit was not within.
“ We amused ourselves therefore a little in
“ surveying the furniture of his grotto, which
“ in its plainness and simplicity was every way
“ suitable to the nature of the place, and the
“ character of the possessor.

“ In one corner we found a kind of table
“ made of a large slate, which was fixed on a
“ pedestal of stone in the manner in which you
“ saw it, and on it there were several books of
“ piety and devotion, particularly the Koran
“ and some others, containing the revelations
“ of

“ of the Prophet, and the visions of Bondezir’s
“ predecessors who inhabited this cell. In
“ another corner, in a part of the cell secreted
“ from the rest, were piled up a few cheese
“ on shelves that were dug out of the rock;
“ and besides these were placed some ves-
“ sels of milk, and some heaps both of fresh
“ and dried fruits, that were gathered from the
“ neighbouring mountains and plains. The
“ furniture of the cell convinced us that the
“ hermit was still alive, and therefore we
“ went out immediately in search of him.
“ We had not travelled far on this errand,
“ when we discovered the hoary sage sitting
“ under the shade of some spreading tree by
“ the side of the fountain, near his hermitage,
“ leaning on his staff, and at one time con-
“ versing with a young man and a young wo-
“ man who sat close by him, at another attend-
“ ing to the sports of two lovely boys who
“ prattled and played around him in all the
“ innocent simplicity of childhood, and whom
“ he seemed to gaze on with ineffable tender-
“ ness and delight. We all stopt spontane-
“ ously, as it had been by concert, to con-
“ template and to enjoy this pleasing scene of
“ domestic life, till Bondezir happened to cast
“ an eye towards us, Obeyd immediately went
“ up to him. The hermit observing his ap-
“ proach, rose to salute him; and recognizing
“ at once the son of his friend, and the pupil
“ whom he had taught, “Welcome my dear
“ friend,” said he, throwing his arms around
“ him, and embracing him with all the ar-
“ dour of parental affection, to this solitary
“ dwelling, and welcome the strangers who
“ have accompanied thy steps to the best en-
“ tertainment which my humble abode can af-
“ ford; but necessity, and not choice, has
“ doubtless

“ doubtless compelled you to take shelter in
“ this unfrequented desert: the children of
“ prosperity, who bask in the sunshine of fortune, and are nursed in the lap of luxury,
“ have seldom the inclination or the fortitude
“ to exchange the court for the cottage, to renounce the superfluities and delicacies of
“ life to which they have been accustomed,
“ and to live according to the dictates of uncorrupted nature.” “ The visit which we
“ have paid you, venerable father, in your sequestered retreat,” replied Obeyd, “ is
“ partly the effect of necessity, partly the result of deliberate choice. These amiable,
“ strangers, whom I beg to recommend to your
“ hospitality, are obliged to seek for shelter
“ from the arm of violence in this lonely desert and I have voluntarily abandoned the
“ pageantry of a court, in order to accompany them in their flight, and attach myself
“ to their fortune; and all of us, with hearts
“ truly indifferent to the blandishments of
“ honour and wealth, or the luxuries of life,
“ are desirous of spending the remainder of
“ our days with you, whose temperate meals
“ will contribute to our health, and whose excellent lessons of morality will establish our
“ souls in virtue, and qualify us for the felicity of paradise, which the Prophet hath assured us is reserved for the faithful.”

“ As he uttered these words, the venerable
“ man, regarding Selima and me with a look of
“ complacency that indicated the benignity of
“ his disposition, and the gentleness of his
“ manners, “ Children,” said he, “ the testimony of Obeyd, confirmed by your own engaging appearance, is sufficient to recommend
“ you to my esteem; but with regard to the
“ practice

“ practice of virtue, which you are desirous of
“ learning from me, I am not so arrogant as
“ to pretend to teach what I myself, hoary as
“ you now see me, am still studying to acquire.
“ A virtuous life is a gradual and progressive
“ state, and the highest advancements in vir-
“ tue are not to be attained without the most
“ strenuous exertions, confirmed by reiterated
“ habit. The tranquillity of retired life, to
“ which I have devoted myself, may, by its
“ being less subject to the influence of temp-
“ tation, and by its affording better opportuni-
“ ties of recollection and meditation, be pe-
“ culiarly favourable to those exertions; and
“ if I can, either by my counsel or experience,
“ aid your virtuous resolutions, my best en-
“ deavours shall not be wanting. Your soci-
“ ety,” added he, “ in the mean time, will be
“ highly agreeable to me; and I doubt not
“ that our mutual happiness will increase in
“ proportion to the strength of our mutual at-
“ tachments, and to the indulgence of those
“ affections for the exercise of which domestic
“ life affords the greatest scope.” Then em-
“ bracing Selima and me with the most cor-
“ dial friendship, he proposed that we should
“ all walk with him into his cell, in order to
“ refresh ourselves after our fatigue with such
“ provisions as the place afforded, which,”
“ said he, “ though it is replenished with none
“ of those rich sauces and ragouts that you
“ have been accustomed to, and which a viti-
“ ated taste represents as palatable, is how-
“ ever stored with abundance of such food as
“ is most suitable to a natural and uncorrupted
“ taste, such as is most conducive to health,
“ and will probably in a little time be the most
“ agreeable to your choice.” Being greatly
“ exhausted with fatigue and hunger, we gladly
“ accepted

“ accepted the invitation. and walked all
“ together towards his cell.

“ While we were on the way Obeyd was
“ frequently glancing his eye on the young man
“ and woman and on the two boys whom we
“ found with the hermit by the side of the fountain, which Bondezir happening at last to
“ observe, “ you are desirous to know,” said
“ he, “ who these persons are whom you see
“ here travelling with us to the cell. Cannot
“ you discover,” continued he, in the features
“ of that young woman some resemblance to
“ my dear Zemroud ? Peri ô Konkonna, for that
“ is her name, was indeed only a child when
“ you last visited this solitary abode but she
“ is since married to this young man, whose
“ name is Rezoud, and these two boys whom
“ you now see playing around us are their
“ children.” Then addressing himself to me,
“ had I continued,” said he, in the public
“ walks of life in which I at first set out, and
“ been possessed of that fortune which Obeyd
“ knows I was unjustly deprived of by the
“ perfidy of an uncle, to whose tutelage I was
“ committed, I might have obtained a richer
“ husband for my daughter, but I could not
“ have obtained one more deserving of her :
“ they are indeed both worthy of each other,
“ and are the support and comfort of my declining years.” As he uttered these words
“ the filial tear started into the eyes of Peri ô
“ Konkonna ; both she and Rezoud cast a reverential and affectionate look on Bondezir ;
“ and then blushing through native modesty
“ bent their eyes towards the ground. “ This
“ young man,” continued Bondezir, “ possesses
“ a farm at the distance of two miles, hard by
“ the side of this forest ; both he and my
“ daughter,

“ daughter, knowing how much I am attached,
“ from the power of habit to this cell, to yon-
“ der fountain and to the walks and groves
“ around which to me are so familiar and so
“ delightful, visit me every day with these
“ dear infants, though with considerable incon-
“ veniency to themselves. But since you have
“ resolved to take up your abode with me in
“ this sequestered retreat, there will be less
“ occasion for their daily attendance on me.
“ We will continue however to live as the
“ members of one family; we will visit each
“ other as often as our convenience will allow;
“ and I am inclined to hope that my declining
“ fun will shine forth with a mild and serene
“ splendor on the evening of my days, that he
“ will set in a clear and unruffled sky, and that
“ he will rise again with transcendent bright-
“ ness in the climes of paradise.”

“ We had by this time arrived at the hermi-
“ tage, and having entered into it, the reve-
“ rend sage desired his daughter to set before
“ his guests the best entertainment which she
“ had. Accordingly, she brought, with the
“ utmost dispatch, some vessels of excellent
“ milk, cheese which she herself had made,
“ and several kinds of choice fruits, both fresh
“ and dried, which she and her husband had
“ gathered, and for our drink, some fine fresh
“ whey, and the pure transparent water which
“ gushed from the rock. “ This plain and sim-
“ ple food,” said our benevolent host, will, I
“ am afraid, not be so palatable to your taste,
“ accustomed as you have been to those dain-
“ ties that are contrived for stimulating the fa-
“ ted appetite, and which the pampered and
“ overcharged stomach is unable to convert into
“ wholesome nourishment; but as I observed
“ already

“ already, a little time will reconcile you to
“ that food which is agreeable to nature, and
“ which is all that nature requires: besides
“ that you will feel the happy effects of our
“ temperate way of living, and of the air and
“ exercise which we enjoy in this pleasing
“ retreat, in contributing both to the health
“ of your bodies and the serenity of your
“ minds.”

“ We needed no arguments to convince us,
“ that the food which was set before us was
“ excellent of its kind, or to persuade us to eat
“ heartily. Feeling the calls of hunger very
“ urgent, we thought the food that was set be-
“ fore us, the most delicious we had ever tast-
“ ed; and did not in the least regret the want
“ of any of the superfluities to which we had
“ been accustomed. After our appetites were
“ fully satisfied and the dishes that were set
“ before us were removed, the venerable sage
“ requested, that I would favour him with the
“ relation of our history, of our acquaintance
“ with his friend Obeyd, and of the motives
“ which determined all of us to make choice
“ of this solitary cell as the place of our re-
“ treat.

“ I then related to him in the manner in
“ which I had done to you, the various circum-
“ stances of my life, gave him an account of
“ the rise and progress of my passion for Selima,
“ of the many cruel disappointments and
“ calamities to which we were both subjected;
“ and lastly, acquainted him of my obligations
“ to our common friend Obeyd, and of the
“ means by which he had brought about our
“ escape.

“ After

“ After hearing a relation of the whole,
“ Your disappointments and your sufferings,
“ my children,” says he, have been severe ;
“ but the angel of adversity, I hope, has now
“ ceased to inflict his scourge: your calamities, I trust, are at an end, and the holy
“ prophet has doubtless conducted you to this
“ hermitage, as a secure asylum from the dangers to which you have been exposed. I
“ flatter myself that I am destined to be the instrument of consummating your happiness ;”
“ and addressing himself to Obeyd, “ If you my
“ friend,” said he, concur with me, the felicity of this worthy pair shall be immediately
“ completed. Do you,” added he, “ act the
“ part of a father in giving this amiable lady
“ to her betrothed lover, and I myself will officiate in bringing them under those vows,
“ which will indissolubly unite them to each
“ other.” Transported with a proposal the execution of which was to put me in possession
“ of the highest earthly felicity, I eagerly
“ caught the hand of Selima, and urged her
“ with the most earnest and tender importunity
“ to comply with it ; with a countenance effused with blushes she let me understand that
“ she gave her consent. We were accordingly
“ without any further ceremony or preparation
“ married that instant, and our mutual constancy was rewarded with the full accomplishment of our wishes.

“ In the possession of Selima my earthly felicity was completed ; and we all lived together for several years in a state of the
“ sweetest harmony and of the most improving
“ friendship that mortals can enjoy. In our
“ amusements and occupations in this delightful solitude, and especially in that endearing
“ society

“ society in which we lived, we realized the
 “ Idea of the golden age, and experienced
 “ those serene and heart-felt pleasures which
 “ flow from innocence and virtue, and which
 “ were enjoyed by some of the first inhabitants
 “ of the world, whose lives were regulated
 “ by the dictates of simple nature, before the
 “ arts of luxury had vitiated the taste and de-
 “ praved the manners of mankind.

“ Sometimes we walked together, sometimes
 “ apart, as humour or inclination dictated ;
 “ sometimes we ranged the mountains in quest
 “ of herbs and fruits, at other times we re-
 “ posed ourselves under the shade of some
 “ spreading tree, and listened to the lessons of
 “ wisdom and virtue which flowed from the
 “ tongue of Bondezir ; sometimes we were visit-
 “ ed by the neighbouring shepherds, some-
 “ times we returned their visits, following
 “ their flocks through the meadows and moun-
 “ tains on which they grazed, and sometimes
 “ Selima and I, stealing as it were unperceived
 “ from the rest of company, and wandering
 “ through the woods, or sitting on the brink of
 “ a clear fountain, gave vent to the emotions
 “ of our hearts without disguise and poured
 “ forth the dictates of mutual love, tenderness,
 “ and friendship into each other’s bosom.

“ To consummate my happiness, if any thing
 “ could be said to be wanting to its accomplish-
 “ ment, about a year after our marriage I was
 “ blessed with a son, and in about two years
 “ after his birth with a daughter, who were
 “ brought up with the children of Rezoud and
 “ Peri ô Konkonna, and we all lived together
 “ for several years in the utmost harmony and
 “ happiness, like children of the same family,
 “ considering

“ considering Bondezir as our common father,
“ and concurring in every sentiment of duty
“ and affection that was due to a parent. But
“ alas! all earthly happiness is fleeting and
“ uncertain as the sun beams which play upon
“ yonder lake. The worthy and venerable
“ sage, who had so long inhabited this cell,
“ at last paid the debt of nature, and left us
“ in deep affliction for the loss of one to whom
“ we were all attached by the strongest ties
“ of esteem, friendship, and obligation. To
“ aggravate the stroke, our dear friend Obeyd
“ soon after expired, and drew fresh streams
“ of grief from our wounded hearts. In yon-
“ der mount of earth, covered with green sods,
“ and shaded by two lofty trees whose branches
“ are interwoven with each other, and
“ near the fountain where we first discovered
“ Bondezir, are interred the remains of that
“ excellent man and his worthy friend. On a
“ certain day every week Rezoud and Peri ô
“ Konkonna come hither in order to visit their
“ tomb with me ; and we join with mingling
“ our sighs and tears together, and in strewing
“ fresh leaves over the graves of the deceased.
“ Selima however and my children were yet
“ spared to me ; and while they were spared,
“ I was able to support every other affliction
“ with some degree of fortitude.

“ But an event, to me of all others the most
“ deplorable, soon after happened, which ex-
“ tinguished all my prospects of earthly felici-
“ ty, and overcast my soul with a cloud of mi-
“ sery, black and dark, as the shades of
“ death. While I recollect this direful event,
“ my tortured heart still throbs at the reflecti-
“ on, the fountain of my grief is opened, and
“ all its wounds bleed afresh.

E

As

As he uttered these words, the heaving sighs which crouded his bosom in quick succession stifled his speech, and occasioned a pause in the narration. Amur, Almerine, and Mouli, though they could only yet conjecture the cause, from a sympathy of feeling, burst into tears; Almerine in particular was deeply affected, and readily anticipating in her own imagination the calamity which was the cause of the unusual agitation, she observed, "Alas!" said she, regarding him with a look of sensibility and pity peculiar to herself, "this violent emotion which agitates thy soul can only be occasioned by the death of Selima. O speak! Is not this the cause of that anguish which wrings thy heart?" Your conjecture," recovering himself a little, "is too true; and the manner of her death was an aggravation of my affliction, and gave a shock to my whole frame that I shall never be able to recover.

"The dear partner of my life having been one day employed in washing the clothes of her children on the brink of that rivulet, just where you see it fall into a deep basin, her daughter, then a child, prattling and playing around her, her foot slipped, and falling backward, her head striking against the rock by the side of the rivulet, she tumbled into the pool below, from which, benumbed as she had been by the fall, she was unable to rescue herself. The child terrified and affected by the dreadful catastrophe, ran to the cell, crying that her mother had fallen into the pool!" Thunderstruck with the dismal tidings, my blood ran cold in my veins, my hair stiffened with horror, and I was for a moment fixed in speechless agony; but on
"hearing

“ hearing the child utter another scream, I
“ started from my seat like one distracted, and
“ flew in an instant to the fatal place ; but
“ alas ! I came too late. Regardless of my
“ own life, while I believed a dearer to be at
“ stake, I plunged immediately into the pool,
“ caught hold of Selima’s cloaths, and drew her
“ to the bank. While I raised her from the
“ ground, the water gushed from her mouth,
“ and the blood trickled from the wound she
“ had received in one of her temples from the
“ fall. I pressed her to my bosom, I applied
“ my mouth to her lips, I beseeched, I adjur-
“ ed her to speak to me but she uttered not a
“ word ; the power of speech had failed her,
“ and her gentle soul was upon the point of
“ forsaking the seat of life. Raising once more
“ her dying eyes, she cast upon me a look of
“ ineffable tenderness and pity ; she heaved a
“ deep sigh and expired in my arms. When I
“ perceived her without motion or life, my
“ arms, which were clasped round her waist,
“ quitted their hold, and I sunk to the earth in
“ an agony of grief and horror, that for a while
“ deprived me of the power of utterance, and
“ almost drove me into phrenzy. Selima fell
“ by my side. Casting my eyes at one time
“ towards heaven, as if I accused providence
“ on account of the fate of Selima, at another
“ upon the pale, livid, and breathless corpse
“ beside me, I uttered the most lamentable
“ cries, I tore my hair in the fury of my pas-
“ sion, I rolled in the dust, and abandoned
“ myself to the excesses of inconsolable grief.
“ I again folded the sad remains of the dear
“ creature in my arms ; I pressed her lifeless
“ body to my breast ; I often repeated her
“ name, and beseeched her to hear and an-
“ swer the voice of her Rhedi, as if she had

“ been sensible of my request.—“ But ah! my
“ Selima,” exclaimed I, with a sigh that swell-
“ ed and almost burst my heaving heart,
“ thou no more knowest the calls of thy Rhe-
“ di! Thy pure and innocent soul has forsak-
“ en its mortal tenement, and under the con-
“ duct of its guardian angels taken its flight to
“ the mansions of paradise. Ah! why am I
“ not suffered to accompany thy flight? Why
“ am I compelled by the severe destiny of
“ Providence to drag out a wretched life with-
“ out the society of her who could alone ren-
“ der life comfortable or supportable.”

“ While I was thus giving myself up to de-
“ vouring grief, my children, the dear pledges
“ of my Selima’s love, were pouring forth
“ their little souls in the most moving cries and
“ lamentations for the death of their mother;
“ and the reflections on their helpless state, and
“ the irreparable loss they had sustained, ag-
“ gravated the stroke of my affliction, and gave
“ a fresh wound to my bleeding heart. I fold-
“ ed the two lovely babes, the sole remains
“ and representatives of Selima, in my arms;
“ I hung over them with a sort of mournful de-
“ light, bathing their faces with the tears that
“ streamed from my eyes, and I attempted to
“ pour into their hearts that balm of consolati-
“ on of which I myself stood so much in need,
“ but could not obtain.

“ Judging it proper, however, to remove
“ my children from a scene which was calcula-
“ ted to feed and renew their grief, I carried
“ them away from the dead body of their mo-
“ ther into the cell, committing them to the
“ care of a humane and tender-hearted shepherd,
“ who was in the use of visiting us in our soli-
“ tude

“ tude, and who, hearing of the calamity
“ which had befallen me, had come upon the
“ sad occasion to express his sympathy, and
“ mingle his tears with mine. Having left my
“ children under the care of this shepherd,
“ whose name was Mansur, I repaired again to
“ the place where the body of my Selima lay;
“ on the banks of the rivulet, near that fatal
“ pool where she was drowned, I dug her
“ grave, and deposited her dear remains in the
“ dust. In this shady arbour, which these
“ hands have planted around her grave, and in
“ the spot where we now sit, is interred the
“ best and tenderest of women. To this con-
“ secrated arbour I have never failed to repair
“ once every day, and prostrating myself on
“ the spot where her ashes are laid, I give
“ vent to my over-charged heart, and pour forth
“ torrents of tears to the memory of the de-
“ ceased.

“ For some time my grief was rather aug-
“ mented than diminished, which was partly
“ owing to my solitary life, of which I still be-
“ came fonder, partly to the indulgence I gave
“ it, and partly to those peculiar methods I was
“ led into through inclination, which were na-
“ turally adapted to increase it. Every object
“ around me was calculated to inspire and to
“ nourish this disposition. Every tree under
“ whose shade I sat, and every fountain of
“ whose waters I drank, recalled to my remem-
“ brance the idea of Selima. But when I re-
“ tired into this grove where her precious dust
“ is interred, on purpose to meditate on the ex-
“ cellencies of the dear deceased, and to pay
“ my daily tribute of tears to her memory, her
“ beauty, her virtues, and her accomplish-

"ments rose to my view at once in all their
 "lustre, and so entirely occupied my mind, as
 "to leave no room for any other idea. I be-
 "came indifferent to the world and all its at-
 "tractions; and so much was I absorbed in
 "the contemplation of the sole object of my
 "affections, that I was upon these occasions,
 "even in a great measure, deaf to the calls of
 "duty towards my children. I thought of no-
 "thing but Selima; and earnestly wished to
 "be released from this brittle tenement of the
 "clay, that I might once more rejoin the so-
 "ciety of my lovely fair one in the regions
 "of paradise.

"While I was one day pouring forth my
 "usual tribute of tears on the grave of Selima,
 "and indulging the most ardent desires of be-
 "ing re-united to her without any more dread
 "of separation, I felt the ground trembling
 "under my feet; I saw the trees of the grove
 "nodding over my head; and I perceived
 "a being of a dignity superior to that of the
 "race of mortals, standing before me; a robe
 "spangled with the dyes of heaven floated on
 "his shoulders in graceful majesty; a reful-
 "gent diadem encircled his head, his right hand
 "wielded the rod of chastisement, his eye glan-
 "ced the lightning of indignation, and his brow
 "lowered with the frown of disdain. From the
 "menacing air which appeared in his coun-
 "tenance, I knew him to be the angel of re-
 "proof, and I was petrified at once while he
 "delivered his rebuke, Unthinking mortal,"
 "said he, "dost thou presume to oppose thy
 "wishes to the destiny of Providence, and
 "the will of the Omnipotent and infinitely
 "Wise? As he has dispersed his bounties to the
 "children of mortality has he not a title to re-
 "sume

“sume the blessings he had lent? And as he
“has appointed to each his station in life, has
“he not a right to require of each the perfor-
“mance of the duties which are correspondent
“to the station he has assigned? Can a reptile
“of the earth censure the dispensations of un-
“erring Wisdom without arrogance? Or can
“he desert the station appointed him by the
“Eternal, or neglect the duties of it without
“guilt? Thou repinest at the dispensations of
“Providence, which have separated thee from
“Selima, and thou wishest, with impatience,
“to be released from thy mortal tenement,
“that thou mightest be united to her to se-
“parate no more; thou dost not consider that
“the wish implies an opposition to the will
“of him who gave thee thy being, to whom
“it is thy duty to submit. Let a conviction
“therefore of the just administration and right-
“eous order of Providence, though at present
“imperceptible to thy limited faculties seal thy
“lips in silence, and still the murmurs of thy
“heart. If thou wishest to be re-united to
“Selima, and to participate of her happiness,
“make it thy study to imitate her example;
“train up thy children in the principles of vir-
“tue and stedfastly persevere in the path of du-
“ty; and thy perseverance shall be rewarded
“with the felicity of paradise.” As he uttered
“these last words, his brows, which had been
“contracted into a frown, acquired an aspect of
“more benignity; his accent became less se-
“vere; and though I was awed into reverence
“and submission by his rebuke, I was likewise
“inspired with confidence and hope of the re-
“wards of immortality. The angel, who had
“descended both to reprove and instruct me,
“having executed his commission, spread forth

“ his resplendent pinions, and soared towards
“ the empyrean.

“ When I began to reflect upon my own sentiments and conduct for some time past, I
“ was sensible of the justness and force of the
“ admonition delivered me by the angel of re-
“ proof; I perceived, that I had indulged a
“ criminal excess of grief, and that for the
“ sake of this indulgence, I had sacrificed or
“ neglected some of the most important duties
“ of life. I recollected that man was formed
“ for action, rather than for contemplation;
“ that the pressure of our own private calamities, however severe, can never exempt us
“ from those duties which we owe to our children and to society; that despondence under
“ affliction is in every situation a weakness as
“ well as a crime; and that resignation under
“ the irremediable evils of life to the will of
“ the Supreme, and intrepid resolution exerted
“ in combating those to which our natural
“ powers are adapted, and which by our continued efforts may be overcome, argues at
“ once the greatest magnanimity and the truest
“ fortitude.

“ This train of reflection served in some
“ measure to reconcile me to my unhappy fate;
“ reason resumed its empire in my breast, and
“ time, which always moderates the excess
“ both of our joys and sorrows, aided by sentiments of religion which took place in my
“ mind, at last abated the violence of my
“ grief; and the tempestuous gusts of passion,
“ which at first agitated my soul, subsided in a
“ settled and pensive, but not unpleasing melancholy. I still thought of Selima with the
“ same tenderness, but my heart was not so
“ much torn by those violent conflicts of passion
“ on

“ on, which are the results of the first impetuous bursts of grief in its excess; I gradually acquired a certain serenity of temper, to which I had been long a stranger, and I engaged with earnestness in the task of educating my children, now my only care, which I considered as my duty, and which I executed with delight.

“ My son, to whom I had given the name of Alibeg, was at the time of his mother’s death in the ninth year of his age, and flattered me with the appearance of a happy genius and good disposition, much beyond his years; my daughter, who bore the name of Fatima, was only in the seventh, and I already traced with inexpressible pleasure, in her unfolding features, a lively image of her mother, whom she promised to resemble in the endowments of her mind and the graces of her person.

“ In the education of my children I was particularly careful to impress on their minds an awful reverence of the supreme Being, a veneration for his prophet and a respect to his oracles; for I considered, that though these sentiments could not at present operate upon their actions in any other manner than by the power of habit, yet they might in the future period of their lives, should they in the course of Providence happen to be cast upon the world, and to mingle in the common pursuits and occupations of mankind, discover their influence in a more rational manner, and prove excellent preservatives against the contagion of folly and vice. I endeavoured to trace out to them, in proportion as their faculties expanded, the vestiges and exhibi-

“ tions of divine wisdom and goodness in the
“ visible creation around us ; and pointed out
“ innumerable instances of the benignity of
“ the supreme Being in the provision which he
“ has made for the supply of the manifold wants
“ of mankind. From this display of the wisdom
“ and beneficence of the Deity, I endeavoured
“ to inflame “ their hearts with the most fervent
“ love and gratitude towards that Being who is
“ the author of all the felicity we enjoy or
“ hope for.

“ I shewed them likewise that a devout re-
“ signation to the divine Will, under the pres-
“ sure of affliction, an unshaken trust in God for
“ deliverance from the calamities to which
“ we may be subjected, a steadfast hope of his
“ favour of his bestowing upon us whatsoever
“ is most conducive to our most important inter-
“ ests, and finally productive of our eternal
“ happiness, are all founded upon the power,
“ the omniscience, the wisdom, and the good-
“ ness of the supreme Being.

“ While I pointed out to them the reason-
“ ableness and the obligation of gratitude and
“ love to God, I endeavoured at the same time
“ to cultivate in their minds the principle of
“ universal benevolence to mankind, and to
“ train them to the practice of this virtue by
“ exercise and habit, long before they were
“ capable of reasoning on its nature and its ef-
“ fects. The sphere of their beneficence in-
“ deed was narrow, being confined within the
“ circle of the shepherds and peasants in the
“ neighbourhood, who used sometimes to visit
“ us in our retirement, and with whom we in-
“ terchanged offices of hospitality and friend-
“ ship ; but the operation of the principle it-
“ self

“ self became vigorous according to the paucity
“ of the objects on which it was exerted, as
“ waters pent up in a narrow channel overflow
“ the banks which confine them and form a
“ stronger and more rapid current, than when
“ they are diffused to a greater extent.

“ In order to habituate them to the practice
“ of benevolence, I accustomed them to the
“ performance of kind and benevolent offices
“ to those who came to visit us, such as by
“ making them presents of figs, dates, and such
“ like, which, though inconsiderable in their
“ value, had a tendency to strengthen the prin-
“ ciple from which they flowed; and I en-
“ deavoured to inspire them with tenderness
“ and sympathy towards the unhappy by ma-
“ king them eye-witnesses of the misfortunes
“ of our neighbours arising from the desolation
“ of the seasons and from the consequent scar-
“ city of provisions.

“ In this system of moral discipline, I found
“ indeed that nature performed more than one
“ half of the work, at the same time I observed
“ with exquisite pleasure the effect of my in-
“ structions and tuition in giving a proper di-
“ rection for the principles which she had im-
“ planted. Thus all my cares and labours in
“ the education of my children were fully com-
“ pensated by their daily progress and advance-
“ ment in those which I endeavoured to culti-
“ vate in their minds. But alas! when my
“ children, now in the prime of youth, appear-
“ ed like the almond-tree in all its blossom and
“ beauty, lovely to the eye and fragrant to the
“ smell, a fatal accident, which I yet shudder
“ with agony and horror to relate, blasted the
“ goodly

“ goodly prospect and laid all its honours in
“ the dust.

“ One day Alibeg and Fatima having gone
“ abroad with some of the neighbouring shep-
“ herds, in order to gather some of the fruits
“ which the mountains yielded, were intercepted
“ by a band of robbers, consisting of six per-
“ sons all armed, who happened to pass that
“ way through the desert by an unfrequented
“ road near the place where they were gather-
“ ing fruit. These ruffians, casting their eyes on
“ Fatima, whose beauty arrested their attention,
“ and thinking her the only prize worthy of
“ their regard, they determined to carry her
“ off by force as a present to their chieftain,
“ who was not with them in this expedition;
“ coming up therefore with this intent to Fati-
“ ma, who was quaking with dread at what
“ was likely to happen, they seized her with-
“ out further ceremony, telling her she must
“ go along with them, and that they would
“ provide her with a lover who would know
“ how to prize her charms.

“ Fatima, upon finding herself in the power
“ of this infamous band, gave a loud shriek,
“ which alarmed her brother so much, that he
“ ran up hastily with a baton in his hand, the
“ only weapon he had, calling upon the vil-
“ lains who dragged her along to release her,
“ and threatening if they did not instantly com-
“ ply with his desire, to revenge the violence
“ offered to his sister. One of the wretches who
“ thus dragged Fatima along with him, whose
“ name was Tagay Bahadr, and who seemed
“ to have the command of the rest, turning
“ upon Alibeg, and regarding him with a
“ look both of resentment and scorn, told him.

“ That

“ That he would chastise his insolence immediately if he did not restrain the petulance of his tongue, and that he needed not expect he would release his fair captive as he was determined to carry her as a present for his captain, though he were opposed by much more formidable enemies than he and his ragged companions.”

“ Alibeg, stung with rage at this contemptuous answer, and inflamed with indignation at the indignity and violence done to his sister, replied, “ That he did not at present intend to combat his antagonist with words but with blows,” adding, that whatever might be his fate, he would endeavour, armed only as he was with the baton which he held in his hand, to take a signal vengeance on the wretch who dared to lay his sacrilegious hand on his sister, and to speak so injuriously and disrespectfully of his friends.” He had scarce uttered these words, when springing forward with the rapidity of an eagle, eager to seize his pray, he gave the fellow, who had uttered this scornful and contemptuous language, such a blow on the head with his baton, that he reeled backwards a few paces and fell to the ground, then recovering his arm he aimed such a blow at another, that the weight of the stroke laid him prostrate at his feet. Had my son been supported as he ought at this crisis by his companions, he might have been able to rescue his sister, but these standing aloof, either through want of courage or presence of mind, he was forced to maintain the combat against the four remaining villains, from one of whom, while he was parrying a blow aimed at him by another, he received a mortal wound in
“ the

“ the side, and sunk to the earth. Fatima
“ seeing her brother fall and the vital blood
“ gushing from the wound he had received,
“ screamed wildly, and fainting at the dire-
“ ful spectacle before her eyes, she sunk down
“ on his breast. The two shepherds observing
“ Alibeg fall were seized with a sudden panic,
“ and afraid of participating in his fate, they
“ betook themselves to flight; but anxious at
“ the same time to know the catastrophe of
“ Fatima, they wheeled about, and returning
“ through the thickest part of the wood, where
“ they were screened from the view of the rob-
“ bers, they waited in dreadful suspense for
“ the conclusion of this pathetic scene.

“ From one of these eye and ear-witnesses it
“ was that I heard the particulars of the mov-
“ ing tale that I am now relating in thine ears,
“ and which memory hath engraven on the
“ tablets of my heart in characters too deep
“ to be erased by the hand of time.

“ Alibeg feeling his sister lying on his breast
“ in a swoon was by that circumstance thrown
“ into such a violent emotion, as overpowered
“ all the faculties of his soul, and almost ter-
“ minated in his immediate dissolution; clasp-
“ ing her eagerly in his arms once and again he
“ essayed to speak to her; but the weakness of
“ his body occasioned by the loss of blood, the
“ strength of his sensations, and the fierce con-
“ flict of contending passions, all raging in his
“ breast in their utmost extremes, deprived him
“ of the power of speech. In this terrible
“ paroxysm of the passions, he poured forth
“ his soul and life at once into the bosom of
“ his sister.

“ At

“ At last, Fatima, gradually recovering from
“ the swoon into which she had been thrown
“ by the violent agitation of her mind, just
“ when her brother was expiring, and having
“ heard him as she was beginning to recover
“ faintly pronounce her name, she turned her
“ languid eyes upon him, and eagerly clasping
“ him in her arms, Didst thou not, my dear
“ brother,” cried she, “ call upon the name of
“ Fatima ?—But ah ! thou speakest not, thou
“ answerest not to the voice of Fatima :”—Then
“ recoiling from his arms, while the wild stare
“ of horror and agonizing grief was impressed
“ on her countenance, “ Thou art cold, thou
“ art pale,” she said “ My dear, my affection-
“ ate Alibeg is gone for ever. Mysterious Pro-
“ vidence,” exclaimed she, “ why am I con-
“ demned to be a spectator of this dreadful
“ scene ?—O that my destiny had subjected me
“ to the fate of Alibeg, that my life and sorrows
“ might have terminated together.” Casting
“ her eye upon the robbers who surrounded
“ her, “ Ye ruthless ruffians,” said she, who
“ have embrued your hands in the blood of the
“ dear youth who lies dead before you, complete
“ your work ; let your steel pierce this bosom,
“ and I will bless the stroke by which I expire,
“ and which will once more unite me to Ali-
“ beg.” Perceiving that they gave her no an-
“ swer, and that they were preparing to seize
“ her ; and happening to observe a sword
“ which belonged to one of the robbers whom
“ Alibeg had knocked down, lying on the
“ ground at some distance, she sprung away
“ from them, and hastily snatching it up, and
“ pointing it at her breast, “ Perfidious
“ wretches,” said she, “ do not imagine that
“ while I am thus armed, I will ever suffer my-
“ self to become your prey, or to be robbed of
“ my

“ my honour, which this sword shall protect.
“ If any of you presume to advance one step
“ further, in order to lay violent hands upon
“ me, I will that moment plunge it into my
“ heart.”

“ While they observed her thus determined
“ to sacrifice her life, rather than allow her-
“ self to fall into their hands, they stood aloof
“ and seemed irresolute what method to take
“ in order to get her into their power, till one
“ of the two whom Alibeg had knocked down,
“ having recovered from the blow, stole behind
“ to her unperceived, and seizing the sword
“ wrenched it out of her hand ; the others see-
“ ing her thus disarmed, immediately came up
“ her, and taking hold of her arm dragged her
“ along with them, piercing the air with her
“ wild shrieks, at one time imploring the in-
“ terposition of heaven in her own favour, at
“ another, its vengeance on the murderers of
“ her brother.

“ The shepherds told me that she continued
“ bewailing the death of her brother and the
“ miseries of her father, till her cries could no
“ more be heard. After the robbers had thus
“ carried my dear Fatima along with them by
“ violence, and were entirely out of sight, the
“ two shepherds, thinking they might now safe-
“ ly peep out of their lurking places, came to
“ the spot where the body of my son was left,
“ and having fixed his corpse on a bier which
“ they made of branches of trees, they carried
“ it in this manner towards my cell.” As the
“ hermit was entering upon this part of his re-
“ lation the tears gushed from his eyes, and
“ the sorrows which agitated his throbbing
“ heart again smothered his voice. Recovering
“ himself

“ himself a little, after several ineffectual attempts to speak, ‘Thou,’ says he, addressing himself to Amur, while the thick sobs again stifled his speech, ‘who hast known what it is to lose a darling and an only child, do thou excuse this interruption of my narration, and those tears which I shed to the memory of my dear Alibeg.

“ ‘The sun’, resumed he, ‘was partly far advanced in the western hemisphere, the shadow of evening began to lengthen, and I waited with eager expectation for the arrival of my son and daughter along with their guests at my solitary dwelling. Imagining they would be hungry after their long fasting and fatigue, I had set some provisions for them on the table, and wondering at their long stay, I went out in order to meet them by the way: I had not travelled far, before I observed the two shepherds who had gone abroad with Alibeg and Fatima, returning with a burden which they carried betwixt them, though I could not yet distinguish what it was. While they were at a considerable distance from me, I called out to them, enquiring where they had left my son and daughter, and what that burden was, under the weight of which they seemed to totter in their walk; they made no answer to my enquiry; but continuing their march towards me as fast as they were able till they approached within a few paces of me, they laid down the bier on which they had fastened the body of my son, at such a distance, that though I could perceive a corps upon the bier, I could not yet determine with certainty whose corps it was. A dreadful presage however of the fatal tidings I was so soon to
“ hear

“hear, that moment took possession of my
“mind, and I stood still in a kind of dumb hor-
“ror, anticipating in my own imagination
“the dreadful spectacle that was going to be
“exhibited to me. While I continued fixed in
“astonishment and dreadful suspense, one of the
“shepherds whose name was Meruk, came up
“to me immediately, and addressing me with
“a look of the most mournful sympathy,
“Rhedi,” said he, “let thy soul be summoned
“up to meet the stroke of affliction, and may
“Allah whom thou serveest, and who dispenseth
“good and evil according to his pleasure, sup-
“port thy soul under the severe trials which
“he has now prepared for thee. Thy son
“is dead, and lies on yonder bier: he fell by
“the hand of robbers, fighting in defence
“of his sister’s honour; and thy daughter Fa-
“tima, alas! they have carried along with
“them as their prey.”

“On hearing these dreadful tidings my soul
“was overwhelmed with unalterable agony,
“my blood was congealed in my veins, a
“deathlike paleness overspread my counte-
“nance, I reeled and fell backwards to the
“earth. That sudden and over-powering stu-
“por of the senses into which I was thrown on
“the first information of this shocking catastro-
“phe, like the grumbling that usually por-
“tends and precedes the gathering storm, was
“followed by a tempest of grief which beat
“down all the structures of my hope, and tore
“from the root all my loveliest flowers which
“sprung upon the garden of delight—Like one
“hastily awakening from a frightful dream,
“that had been presented to the imagination,
“to a still more frightful reality, I recoiled
“with horror at the first glimpse of my misery;
“but

“ but when remembrance and reflexion began
“ to exert their power on my tumultuous mind,
“ I was roused at once into the most desperate
“ sensibility of the calamities which had befallen me, and experienced the severest pangs
“ of grief which can torture the heart of man.
“ Rolling in the dust in the agony of despair,
“ with my hands clasped, and my eyes directed towards heaven, Eternal and omnipotent
“ Allah,” said I, “ why are the bolts of thy indignation still levelled at a reptile of the
“ dust? O! let the lightning of thy wrath flash
“ against this hoary head at once; put a period
“ to an existence which I am unable to endure.”

“ Then raising myself, with the assistance of
“ the shepherds, from the ground, I walked
“ with a tottering step towards the place
“ where the dead body of my son was laid
“ down. When I saw his pale and mangled
“ corpse, the vehement passions which crowded
“ into and overpowered my soul choaked my
“ speech; I fell prostrate upon the body, I
“ hugged and pressed it to my bosom, while I
“ suffered a convulsion of my whole frame,
“ which, had it continued a few moments
“ longer, must have been fatal to my reason or
“ my life. At last the torrent burst forth, and
“ I gave vent to the tempestuous emotions
“ which raged in my mind, in the violent gusts
“ of heart-rending grief. But why should I
“ dwell on a scene the representation of which
“ must excite such painful sensations in your
“ feeling hearts, and the recollection of which,
“ even at this distance of time, awakens my
“ grief in all its violence—And yet why
“ should I give myself up to the dominion of
“ grief, upon account of the loss of Alibeg?—
“ For

“ For thou, my son, art happy ; thou hast passed the narrow bridge ; thou drinkest of the waters of Zemziin ; thou art refreshed with the airs of paradise, and enjoyest the society of the faithful.

“ While I thought of the situation of Fatima, however, familiar as I was with misfortune, a dreadful foreboding seized my heart, and shook my whole frame. “ Ah ! my Fatima,” exclaimed I, with a sigh, that almost burst my heaving heart, “ where art thou ? and what is thy destiny ? Perhaps, alas ! thou art reserved for a fate more dreadful than death ; perhaps thou art at this moment exposed to the insults of brutality, and the assaults of violence ; and the recital of thy dishonour is yet wanting to fill up the cup of thy fathers misery ! Merciful Allah !” cried I, “ grant that before these dreadful tidings reach my ears, these eyes, to which the light of the sun is already hateful, may be closed in everlasting darkness.” As I thus bewailed the calamities which had befallen me, in all the anguish of overwhelming grief, the shepherds, who brought me the body of my son, and who, though destitute of that degree of courage the exertion of which might have saved my Alibeg and Fatima ; seemed greatly affected with my severe afflictions, and attempted to administer to me all the consolation which their sympathizing hearts could suggest ; but finding me deaf to all their arguments and expostulations, they desisted for the present, and proposed to assist me in paying the last duty to the body of Alibeg ; a proposal which I thankfully complied with.

“ The

“ The shepherds having raised it to their
“ shoulders on the bier on which it was brought,
“ I directed them to carry it to the spot where
“ the ashes of my dear Selima were interred ;
“ I followed the sad procession with a slow and
“ melancholy step ; I opened the grave, which
“ contained the remains of the best and love-
“ liest of women ; I placed close by those re-
“ mains the corpse of my beloved Alibeg ; and
“ I earnestly wished that moment to be laid in
“ the same grave, and to mingle my dust with
“ theirs ; but the wish was vain : I continued,
“ however gazing stedfastly on their sad re-
“ liques, till the shepherds, denying any longer
“ this indulgence to my grief, threw the earth
“ which had been dug up on their bodies and
“ covered them with these green sods. Having
“ performed this mournful office, they endea-
“ voured to persuade me to leave a spot, which
“ suggested to me so many melancholy ideas ;
“ and thinking it might tend to suspend or as-
“ suage my grief, they urged me earnestly to
“ go along with them to their cottage, which
“ was about two miles distant I continued
“ deaf, however, to all their intreaties and re-
“ monstrances ; and they finding their solici-
“ tations ineffectual, left me swallowed up in
“ devouring misery, intending to return to mor-
“ row, and to attempt by all the means in their
“ power to alleviate those calamities which
“ they could not remove.

“ Of the manifold miseries to which mortality
“ is subjected, there are some of these too over-
“ whelming to admit of mitigation or of comfort,
“ and all endeavours to mitigate them appear
“ to us rather officious and unteasonable, than
“ friendly and agreeable. We as it were
“ choose to brood over them undisturbed and
“ alone

“ alone, without participation or sympathy. I
“ felt myself in this situation upon the occasion
“ of which I now speak, and after the departure
“ of the shepherds I gave myself up to the do-
“ minion of inconsolable grief, which I wished
“ to appropriate wholly as sacred to myself.
“ Ruminating in my own mind on my deplorable
“ condition, I considered myself as a solitary,
“ forlorn, and abandoned wretch, whose every
“ endearing connexion was broke asunder by
“ the hand of death, standing alone like an old
“ withered oak, stripped of its leaves, and ex-
“ posed to the fury of the warring elements ;
“ then prostrating myself upon this grave, which
“ contained all that was mortal of my Selima
“ and Alibeg, I gave vent to the emotions of
“ my full heart, in the most pathetic lamen-
“ tations,

“ While I was at one time bewailing in the
“ most pitiable accents my own forlorn and
“ desolate condition, at another expressing my
“ most ardent wishes for a re-union to those who
“ were the objects of my tenderest affections,
“ the powers of nature were at last exhausted
“ with the agitation of my mind and the fatigue
“ of my body, and I sunk into a gentle slumber,
“ which gradually overcame my senses, and for
“ a while lulled all my sorrows in oblivion.
“ While the organs of sensation suffered a tem-
“ porary suspension in their exercise, the most
“ glorious and delightful vision I had ever be-
“ held was exhibited to my imagination, and
“ all the powers of my soul were drowned in
“ an ecstasy of pleasure. Raising my eyes from
“ the ground, on which I lay, and directing
“ them to the east, I perceived an unusual bright-
“ ness in that part of the hemisphere, that seem-
“ ed to increase as it approached nearer me.

“ As

“ As I gazed on this splendid phenomenon, a
“ being of mild but majestic dignity burst from
“ the dazzling radiance upon my view, in a
“ blaze of glory that wrapt my mind in admira-
“ tion and awe, suspense and astonishment. As
“ he looked on me, tender compassion beamed
“ in his eye, and unutterable benignity irradi-
“ ated his countenance. From the mildness and
“ serenity of his air, I knew him to be the an-
“ gel of consolation, and though I was awed
“ into reverence and humility by the presence
“ of so superior a being, I felt myself likewise
“ elevated by it with confidence and hope.
“ Rhedi,” said he, “ He that dwelleth in the
“ highest heavens hath had pity on thy misfor-
“ tunes, and hath sent me to comfort thee un-
“ der their pressure, by disclosing to thy view
“ the rewards that are allotted to pious resig-
“ nation and persevering virtue in the regions
“ of paradise. Arise and follow me.” As he
“ uttered these words, he touched me with a
“ rod of mysterious power which held in his
“ hand, when I perceived myself in an instant
“ snatched up into the air, and transported
“ with the rapidity of lightning through un-
“ bounded tracks of æther, we arrived at an
“ immense and delicious garden, or rather
“ country, which my conductor told me was
“ the abode of the faithful.

“ It is in vain for me to attempt to give you
“ any just idea of the beauty of a place which
“ exceeds all power of description, and even
“ all that can be conceived by human ima-
“ gination, and which is as much superior to
“ the most beautiful spot on this earth, as
“ the gardens of Ispahan are superior to the
“ deserts of Arabia. In this enchanting place
“ all the beauties that nature yields were ex-
“ hibited

“hibited in such a manner and with such variety, as to produce the most exquisite delight, without the least satiety: hill and dale, rocks and mountains, woods and rivers, fountains and cascades, embroidered meadows, murmuring streams and embowering shades, walks intersecting each other, some straight, some serpentine, some opening a vast extent of country to the view, others dark and shadowy, and wandering through a mazy labyrinth into a boundless wilderness; all conspired to embellish and to complete this delightful landscape: the trees on each hand at the same time, covered with blossoms and bending with fruit, exhibited the riches of all the seasons in all their pride, while the birds, chanting their melodious songs of love on every bough, heightened the effect of these charming scenes, and rendered them perfectly enchanting.

“As I was gazing around me, lost in wonder and delight, on this happy place and its fair inhabitants, some of whom, both male and female, were walking promiscuously in conference together, without seeming to regard me, others musing on the bank of a murmuring rivulet, and others listening to the falls of cascades and the roar of dashing torrents, I looked behind me, in order to ask some question of my heavenly guide concerning the condition and character of the happy beings whom I saw around me, but I perceived he had vanished from my sight. While my eyes searched on every hand in vain for my divine conductor, and I was pondering in my mind the reason of his disappearing so suddenly, in a place where his condescending instruction could be of such use to me, I perceived a female
“male

“ male form, of the most exquisite beauty, attended by a lovely youth, advancing towards me, both of whom eyed me with a mixture of tenderness and affection; but the former cast upon me such a bewitching look of gentleness and love, as penetrated my soul, and produced emotions in my heart which were as pleasing as they were violent. As I gazed on this divine creature with corresponding tenderness and passion, I instantly recognized the lineaments of my Selima’s face, which were, if possible, moulded into greater symmetry, and flushed with a more vivid bloom and springing forward, in order to fold her in my arms, “O! my lovely Selima,” cried I, am I at last blessed with a sight of the sole charmer of my heart?”—As I pronounced these words I attempted to embrace the enchanting fair-one; but she vanished from my grasp and checking the eagerness I discovered to press her to my bosom, “Attempt not,” said she, “my dear Rhedi, to embrace thy Selima, a privilege which thou canst not enjoy while thou continuest a partner to mortality, but listen to the information and counsel which on the present occasion I am permitted to give thee. Thou bewailest my death as the greatest calamity that could have befallen me; but thou didst not know that if I had lived a few hours longer I should have been subjected to a calamity far more dreadful than death, by suffering dishonour from the same ruffians who carried off thy daughter. The death of thy son was another terrible shock to thy tender and parental heart, and thou regardest his fate as most deplorable and premature; but if thy limited faculties could have enabled thee to foresee that

F

“son

“ son, whose fate thou didst consider as untimely, would in the course of his destiny have been cast upon the world, and exposed to temptations and vice, which, virtuous as he was, his own fortitude would not have enabled him to resist, instead of arraigning the justice and goodness of Providence, in permitting him to be cut off, a rashness of conduct into which by thy short-sighted understanding thou wast in some degree betrayed, thou wouldest have owned the rectitude of the divine dispensations, and acknowledged the mercy of the stroke which preserved him from guilt. Let the consideration, therefore, of the escape which by my death I made from dishonour, and of the escape which thy son, whom thou seest here with me in this happy state, hath by his death made from vice,” pointing to the dear youth, “ whom she held by the hand, reconcile thee to those dispensations which thou so lately, though unknowingly, deemedst to be severe: and let this important truth be engraven on the tablets of thy heart, that all the dispensations of Providence, however calamitous many of them may appear to the individuals who suffer, are regulated by unerring wisdom and boundless benignity, and shall if suitably improved, terminate either in the temporal or eternal happiness of those who are the objects of them. With regard to thy daughter Fatima, whose situation has justly excited in thy heart the most anxious solicitude and the most alarming fears, let it suffice thee to know that she is still alive, and that she has been rescued by a signal interposition of Providence from the evil which thou dreadedst hadst befallen her. The farther

“ther particulars of her fate I am not permitted at present to reveal : this intimation only I am allowed to give thee, that to-morrow, about noon, thou wilt meet several persons at the fountain near thy cell, one of whom comes to prefer a request to thee, with which thy affectionate Selima begs thee to comply. Adieu, my Rhedi, make it thy study to persevere in the path of virtue, and we shall be joined in these happy regions in everlasting union.” Just as she had pronounced these words, I made a second attempt to embrace her ; but she escaped as formerly from my grasp, and the effort which I made awakened me from my dream.

“The impression which this delightful phantom made upon my imagination was so vivid, that for some time I could not determine whether I was asleep or awake, or whether the appearance that had been exhibited to me was real or imaginary ; my senses still continued wrapt in the most pleasing and enchanting delirium I had ever experienced ; and resigning myself under the influence of this delirium to the power of imagination, which was still predominant over my reason, “O my beloved Selima !” exclaimed I, “thou long lost and long deplored charmer of my soul, hast thou, after so many years seperation, condescended to visit thy affectionate and constant Rhedi ? Or am I only the dupe of my own senses ? And is the appearance of my Selima and Alibeg only the delusion of a troubled imagination, which mistakes shadows for realities ?” Then looking around me, and perceiving that I had never stirred a foot from the spot where the shepherds had left

“ me, “ Alas !” said I, “ how have I been deceived by the chimeras of a love-sick brain ?
“ But a few moments ago I fancied myself in
“ paradise, and I was blessed with a sight of
“ my Selima and Alibeg ;—and now I press
“ their dead bodies in this grave. I was lulled
“ in a delicious dream, and now I awake to
“ discover the illusion, and to bemoan my cruel
“ disappointment. A dream did I say ? No,
“ the impression was too vivid for a dream ; it
“ was doubtless a vision, which Selima, herself,
“ my beloved Selima, was permitted to exhibit
“ to my imagination, on purpose to sooth and
“ comfort my troubled mind :—and I already
“ feel its happy effect, in restoring tranquillity
“ to my soul, and in diffusing over it that inef-
“ fable joy that arises from the hope of a re-
“ union, which will consummate its felicity. I
“ will therefore indulge this hope, and pati-
“ ently wait for its accomplishment.—But didst
“ thou not, my lovely fair-one, tell me that my
“ dear Fatima was yet alive, and had escaped
“ dishonour, though it seems thou wast not
“ permitted to acquaint me of the particulars of
“ her fate, or explicitly to inform me whether
“ or not I should yet be blessed with a sight of
“ her. Without attempting to pry into the se-
“ crets of futurity, which are wrapped by Pro-
“ vidence in darkness impenetrable to mortal
“ eye, I will be thankful for the intimation al-
“ ready vouchsafed me, and I will believe it as
“ the dictates of an oracle. I will not yet des-
“ pair of seeing my Fatima, though I know not
“ by what means I may obtain this happiness,
“ and am confident that we shall all meet and
“ rejoice together through endless ages in the
“ mansions of immortality.”

“ The

“ The more I reflected on the astonishing and
“ delightful scenes that had been exhibited to
“ my imagination, whether in a dream or in a
“ vision, I was the more convinced that there
“ was something mysterious or supernatural in
“ the manner of their representation ; and I
“ flattered myself that the intimation I had re-
“ ceived in my sleep portended my speedy en-
“ joyment of those scenes, and of that society
“ which I so eagerly panted after. While I
“ considered this dream or vision as expressive
“ of and presaging my future felicity, every
“ gloomy thought was dissipated at once ; my
“ mind became pensive indeed, but serene,
“ tranquil, and cheerful, intensely animated
“ by the ardor of hope, and gently devoted by
“ the sublime raptures of rational devotion.

“ The shepherds having come next day as
“ they intended, to the place where they had
“ left me, in order to offer me all the sympathy
“ and consolation in their power, were astonish-
“ ed at the alteration they perceived in my tem-
“ per and disposition, of which I explained to
“ them the cause. On hearing this related,
“ their astonishment was increased, and they
“ earnestly concurred with me in ascribing
“ praise to Allah, for the wonderful change
“ they had witnessed.

“ As the time however of the appearance of
“ the guests foretold by Selima was drawing
“ near, I went to the appointed place, and
“ sitting down by the side of the fountain, I
“ watched their approach with a suspense and
“ eagerness proportioned to the importance of
“ the tidings I expected to hear.

“ The leaves of the trees began to whistle,
“ I listened to the sound with still attention,
“ and I looked earnestly through the openings
“ of the wood for the expected strangers; but
“ in vain; the wind had deceived me, and I
“ began to fear a disappointment. At last, I
“ heard the noise of camels at a distance; my
“ heart throbbed with expectation: I looked
“ intensely through a long avenue of the wood
“ and discovered several persons riding on
“ camels, and as they approached nearer me, I
“ observed one of them leading a camel in his
“ hand, without a rider or a burden. In this
“ company I clearly discovered two men and
“ three women, who appeared to be well
“ dressed, riding before, together with a re-
“ tinue of four servants who followed them.
“ Surprized at seeing so many well dressed per-
“ sons coming to visit so solitary a place, and
“ still ignorant of their real errand, I advanced
“ in order to meet and welcome them to my cell.
“ As I went forward, I observed one of the
“ ladies hastily alighting from the camel on
“ which she rode, and running as fast as she
“ was able to meet me, and in an instant I found
“ Fatima in my arms. Transported with sur-
“ prise and joy, while I closely pressed her to
“ my bosom, “O my dear Fatima,” cried I,
“ after so many dangers and fatigues art thou
“ once more restored to the arms of thy discon-
“ solate father. Praise be to Allah, who,
“ though he has cut asunder the thread of my
“ Alibeg’s life, hath preserved thee to sustain
“ my drooping soul under the weight of my
“ affliction and the decline of life.” At this af-
“ fecting interview, the tears of joy trickled
“ down both our cheeks; and we continued
“ some time locked in each other’s arms, dis-
“ solved

“ solved in mutual raptures of parental and filial
“ tenderness. My soul was so entirely ingrof-
“ sed by the emotions of paternal affection that
“ for a while my eye did not take cognizance
“ of the persons, who had accompanied Fatima
“ in her journey. Looking around me, at last,
“ upon one after another, I observed them all
“ affected with the interview they had witness-
“ ed; while one of the youths by his humid
“ eye, and a certain look of mingled compla-
“ cency, sympathy, and tenderness, discovered
“ a heart-felt interest in the pathetic scene
“ which had been exhibited to his view. Re-
“ collecting myself therefore a little, and address-
“ ing myself to them altogether, Pardon,” said
“ I, “ illustrious strangers, my having failed in
“ that respect and attention which was due to
“ persons of your noble appearance, a failure
“ that was owing to the surprise and joy I felt
“ on the unexpected recovery of my daughter.
“ May I presume to ask to whom I am indebted
“ for so great a favour, and for the honour done
“ me in visiting this solitude.” Fatima, con-
“ sulting the delicacy of her benefactors, and
“ desirous to prevent the blush which is apt to
“ arise in the cheek of modest worth when it
“ is obliged to publish its own actions, thought
“ it proper to interpose at this juncture by ad-
“ dressing herself to me. “ The persons,” said
“ she, who have accompanied me to this place,
“ and to whom I probably owe my life or at
“ any rate what is certainly much more valuable
“ than life, my honour, are Sefi Ali Khan and
“ Gamet Beg his brother, and I should be in-
“ excusably ungrateful, if I had not the deepest
“ sense of the obligations I am under to their
“ generosity and valour.

“ After the deplorable death of my dear brother, an event which will never be erased from my heart. I was dragged away by the robbers who had seized me, and had no prospect before me but dishonour and death. While they dragged me along with them I pierced the air with my cries, which, happily for me, reached the ears and penetrated the hearts of these generous youths whom you see before you, who, alarmed by the cries which they heard as they passed that way, rode up hastily in order to learn their cause. Transported with the hopes of deliverance, unequal as they were in number to their antagonists. I represented my unhappy condition to them with all the eloquence of heart-felt distress: I told them, that the ruffians in whose custody I was, had murdered my brother fighting in defence of his sister’s honour, that they were forcing me along with them into captivity, and that they intended to subject me to a fate more dreadful than death, by exposing me to injury and dishonour. This representation produced the desired effect on the minds of these generous youths, who called on the robbers to release me immediately threatening them with instant death in case of a refusal. These wretches however, steeled against every emotion of sympathy, and probably incensed at the menacing language of my protectors, retaliated their threats and put themselves in a posture of defence. But the valiant youths whom you see before you, stimulated by that indignation and ardor, which flash in heroic minds against the assailants of innocence, wielded their swords with such efficacy, that they laid four of the villains who opposed them
“ dead

“ dead at their feet, the remaining two having
“ betaken themselves to flight. After this signal
“ deliverance, which challenges my most fer-
“ vent gratitude, I was conducted by my protec-
“ tors to the house of Sefi Ali Khan, who is Cady
“ of Shirwan, where I have been treated with
“ all the delicacy and respect which I could
“ have wished for, and where these amiable
“ ladies who have condescended to accompany
“ me hither, have honoured me with their es-
“ teem and friendship ever since I came to
“ their brothers house.

“ On hearing this account of her deliverance
“ from Fatima, I looked on the two noble
“ youths with an air of respectful and fervent
“ gratitude mixed with admiration; and told
“ them it was impossible I should ever have it
“ in my power to demonstrate by my actions,
“ the sense I had of the great obligations con-
“ ferred upon me, but that no length of time
“ would ever obliterate from my mind the deep
“ impressions made on it by their generosity and
“ bravery; and that I begged of them in the
“ mean time to accept of my most ardent grati-
“ tude and of my earnest prayers for their hap-
“ piness, as the only return I had in my pow-
“ er to make for their gallant behaviour? Sefi
“ Ali Khan, who was the person that appear-
“ ed to be most deeply affected by the inter-
“ view between Fatima and me, having ad-
“ vanced to salute me with a mien that indi-
“ cated such respect as I could not think my-
“ self entitled to, accompanied with a certain
“ amiable bashfulness, hesitation, and embarrass-
“ ment, of which as yet I knew not the cause,
“ Rhedi.” said he; neither you nor your daugh-
“ ter are under any obligations to us for the
“ deliverance

“ deliverance you refer to; we are sufficiently happy in being the instruments of rescuing so much worth and beauty from the rude assaults of violence; if however,” added he with a tremulous voice and down-cast eye, while the native blush of modesty glowed on his cheek, “ you are good enough to think me deserving a reward, it is in the power of Rhedi to bestow one that will make me the happiest of mortals.” “ If” answered I, the request be in my power to grant, name it only, and you shall at once obtain the accomplishment of your wishes.” “ The request,” replied he with an ardour that sparkled in his eyes, “ that I would now prefer is for your consent to an union with the lovely Fatima, in whom all my wishes center, and in whom my felicity would be complete.” “ O my Selima,” cried I, is this the request which in the vision of thee I was blessed with, thou toldest me would be preferred to me, and with which thou exhortedst me to comply? I respect thy supernatural admonition and cheerfully obey thy desire.” Then throwing my arms round the neck of the illustrious youth, “ My dear Sefi,” said I, “ if my consent only bewanting to consummate thy felicity, thy wishes are gratified, provided thou obtainest the consent of Fatima herself.” “ Then addressing myself to Fatima, whose face was coloured with crimson, “ What says my daughter to the proposal that has been made? Does she readily concur with the earnest and unlimited desires of Sefi and of Rhedi?” “ Though I know,” said Fatima, the respect which is due to the authority of so indulgent a parent, who is pleased so condescendingly to consult the choice of his
“ daughter

“ daughter in a matter of such importance to
“ her happiness, and though I feel the most
“ exquisite joy in being restored to your arms,
“ yet the recent death of my brother, who fell
“ in defence of his sister’s honour, hath left
“ such impression on my heart, that at present it
“ cannot admit of the blandishments of love. I
“ can only say that I have a proper sense of the
“ merits of Sefi Ali Khan and of the distinction
“ he has shewn me, and shall always retain the
“ most grateful sentiments of my deliverance
“ from the robbers, who attempted violently
“ to carry me away, effected by his and his
“ brother’s prowess. It is not impossible but I
“ may some time give Sefi a convincing proof
“ of my attachment as well as gratitude by
“ concurring with those wishes which both you
“ and he have expressed, and to which I will
“ acknowledge I find no reluctance in my own
“ heart. But I beg, my dear father,” continued she, “that neither you nor Sefi Ali Khan
“ will urge this point further at present, as my
“ heart is too much agitated by the extremes of
“ joy and grief to listen to the solicitations of
“ love with those mutual sentiments of affection
“ and tenderness which can alone render the
“ intercourse of lovers endearing and agreeable.” I told her, that I not only allowed,
“ but approved of her reasons for deferring for
“ some time the thoughts of a connection, to
“ entertain which as they ought to be, required
“ a mind tranquil, cheerful, and unembarrassed
“ by other cares ; but that I hoped she would
“ in proper time give that encouragement to
“ the suit of a noble youth, to which his own
“ merit seemed so well to entitle him, and
“ which the obligations that both she and I lay
“ under

“ under to him, gave him additional reason to expect.”

“ Sefi Ali Khan, afraid perhaps that the delicacy of Fatima might be hurt by pushing the matter too far, thought proper to interpose, by assuring us that he exempted us from all obligations to him upon the score of gratitude, as he had done nothing more for her, than he would have done for any young lady placed in the same circumstances. He said, he wished to be indebted to her love, not to her gratitude, for the preference he solicited; then addressing himself to Fatima, whose hand he gently seized and pressed to his heart, “I am transported with joy, my dear Fatima,” said he, “at the encouragement you have given me to hope for a return to a passion as pure, ardent, and unalterable as was ever lighted up in the human breast. In the mean time I will at present desist from my suit, which the state of your mind and other circumstances may just now render unseasonable, in hopes of your listening to my solicitations at a more convenient time, only begging your permission, with the approbation of your father, to visit you now and then in this solitude, where all my treasure is contained.”

“ Fatima told him that as her father approved of his proposals, his visits would always be agreeable to her; and I assured him of his meeting with a welcome reception at my hermitage. I then desired Fatima to set before our guests such provisions as were to be found in our cell, which she did with a frankness and grace that pleased them all, and

“ and particularly Sefi Ali Khan, who seemed
“ to be enchanted with her whole behaviour.
“ As we sat down to eat, the remembrance of
“ my son whom I had so lately lost, and who
“ used to participate with us in our simple re-
“ past, crowded upon my soul and swelled my
“ throbbing heart. I observed my daughter af-
“ fected in the same manner, while the big
“ drops started from her eye, and trickled down
“ her cheek; both Gamul Beg and his two sis-
“ ters appeared to sympathize with our grief;
“ but Sefi Ali Khan entered into it with a feel-
“ ing peculiar to himself, and catching the
“ contagion of sorrow from the eyes of Fatima,
“ by whom he had been informed of the merit
“ of Alibeg, he lamented his death as if he
“ had been his own brother. The strong sym-
“ pathy discovered by Sefi in particular, contri-
“ buted to sooth and to assuage my grief, and
“ pleased me the more, as I considered it as an
“ indication of the humanity of his disposition
“ and of the tenderness of his heart, which a-
“ greeably flattered me with the hopes of his
“ proving a kind and affectionate husband to my
“ daughter. Fatima observed his emotion and
“ I perceived with pleasure, that from this spe-
“ cimen of his disposition, he seemed gradually
“ to gain her affections and to grow in her
“ esteem.

“ In order to comfort both my guests and
“ myself, I related to them the wonderful cir-
“ cumstances that had been exhibited to me in
“ a dream or a vision, which seemed to astonish
“ them all exceedingly, and especially Fatima
“ whose attention hung upon my lips; and
“ while we contemplated the happy state of
“ Selima and Alibeg, our Souls were at once
“ composed

“ composed into resignation and glowed with
 “ the raptures of sublime devotion.

“ After our guests had shared in the moderate
 “ repast which had been prepared for them, Sefi
 “ Ali Khan, his brother and sisters, took their
 “ leave of us and set out for their place of
 “ abode, which was about a day's journey from
 “ my cell. Sefi visited us at least once every week
 “ for several months, and continued upon a
 “ farther acquaintance to improve in mine as
 “ well as my daughter's esteem; and Fatima
 “ having acknowledged her attachment to him,
 “ at last agreed to reward his merit, by giving
 “ him her hand as she had already done her
 “ heart. The amiable youth, enraptured with
 “ joy at the ingenious declaration which Fatima
 “ made of an affection for him, that had indeed
 “ taken place in her heart much sooner than she
 “ herself imagined at the consent she had given
 “ to that union he had so long solicited said,
 “ There was no circumstance wanting to render
 “ his happiness complete but one, and that was
 “ my agreeing to spend the remainder of my
 “ days with my daughter and him at Shirwan,
 “ where the duties of his office as Cadi of that
 “ place necessarily obliged him to reside.” My
 “ daughter earnestly joined with Sefi Ali Khan
 “ in this request, and both of them having repre-
 “ sented to me that the cell in which I had lived
 “ so many years, and which had been the scene
 “ of the most exquisite happiness and misery I
 “ had ever experienced, could, after the death
 “ of my wife and son and the departure of my
 “ daughter, suggest nothing but melancholy
 “ ideas, by exhibiting to my view the objects
 “ that were calculated to open up the fountain
 “ of my grief a-fresh, and recal to my remem-
 “ brance

“ brance pleasures that could never return, they
“ urged me to leave a place that served only to
“ renew the remembrance of my calamities,
“ and to pass the remaining part of my life with
“ them, which, they said, they hoped would
“ be most conducive to my tranquillity and
“ comfort.

“ After thanking them for their kind invitation,
“ I told them, that though all my earthly
“ felicity centered in them, who were now the
“ only objects of my tender and paternal affec-
“ tions, yet there was in this place, melancholy
“ and desolate as it must now appear to me,
“ some secret but mysterious and powerful
“ charm, which irresistibly attached me to it ;
“ and though all the objects around me could
“ only serve to remind me of what had once
“ been, and to recall to my pensive mind pleasures
“ which could never return, yet the
“ very recollections of those pleasures, which I
“ enjoyed with my beloved Selima, in this once
“ delightful, now, alas mournful retreat, inspired
“ me with a certain sublime but pleasing
“ melancholy, which I would not forego for all
“ the enjoyments which the sons of avarice,
“ sensuality, or ambition can hope to obtain.”
“ Urge me not therefore, my dear children,”
“ said I, “ to leave a place to which I am attached
“ by numberless and irresistible ties. I
“ will however often visit you, and hope to be
“ often visited by you. Your endearing society
“ will cheer my lonely retreat, and enable me
“ to pass the evening of my life in serene tranquillity.
“ But this spot shall be the fixed place of
“ my abode. Here I have lived many years ; and
“ some of them in a state of exquisite happiness
“ as ever was allotted to humanity ;—and here
“ I will

“ I will die. I long for the happy moment
“ which shall mingle my ashes with those of
“ Sefima, and which shall indissolubly reunite
“ us together in the mansions of the blessed.”
“ Finding me determined in the choice of my
“ plan of life, they desisted from using any fur-
“ ther arguments in order to prevail with me to
“ alter it.

“ In a little after we all set out together for
“ Shirwan, where Sefi Ali Khan was married
“ to my daughter by the Iman of the place,
“ and having spent a few weeks with them at
“ Shirwan, I returned again to this solitary
“ but peaceful retreat, where I intend to pass
“ the remaining part of my life in the exercises
“ of piety and virtue, in the quiet contemplati-
“ on of the vicissitude of mortality, and in
“ preparing my soul for the felicity of para-
“ dise.

“ Sefi Ali Khan and my daughter have now
“ lived about twelve years in a reciprocal in-
“ tercourse of the most endearing affection and
“ friendship, and I have been treated by them
“ with all that attention and filial reverence
“ which a parent could wish for. My comfort
“ likewise hath been greatly increased by see-
“ ing a family of promising children which
“ Fatima hath born to Sefi, rising around me,
“ like thriving plants in a well-cultivated gar-
“ den; and it hath been a great part of my
“ employment to assist the pious cares of the
“ parents in informing their minds to the love
“ and exercise of virtue, in which our united
“ labours have hitherto been attended with all
“ the success we could expect. Though I feel
“ a peculiar satisfaction in the discharge of
“ the

" the duties of this office, which I consider as
 " particularly incumbent upon me, and which
 " I execute with a watchful, tender, and plea-
 " sing assiduity; and though I have frequently
 " the happiness of seeing my dear Fatima and
 " her husband, both here and at Shirwan, and
 " enjoy the comforts of the most agreeable do-
 " mestic society in their company, yet my soul
 " is wedded to this solitude, where every ob-
 " ject around me recalls to my remembrance
 " the image of the dear deceased, and the hap-
 " piness I once enjoyed in their endearing so-
 " ciety.

" While I sit on this grave where their mortal
 " tenements are deposited, and water their
 " ashes with my tears, while I think of the
 " mournful vicissitudes of human life in general,
 " and of those in particular which I myself
 " have been doomed to experience, I feel a cer-
 " tain pensive and sublime melancholy taking
 " place in my mind; which delights to muse on
 " those mournful subjects as most congenial to
 " the disposition that suggests them, and my
 " soul carrying its views beyond this scene of
 " perpetual mutation anticipates the hope and
 " pants for the fruition of the joys of immor-
 " tality.

" Such, Amur, is the history of my life; let
 " thy soul drink instruction from the lesson it
 " contains, as the tender flowers drinking the
 " dews of heaven, which adorn them with the
 " colours of beauty, bestow on them their glos-
 " sy enamel, and diffuse those agreeable odours
 " that regale our senses with their fragrance.
 " Let this important truth be engraved on the
 " tablets of thy heart, that affliction of one kind
 " or

“ or another is the lot of man ; but that those
“ who submit to the irremediable evils of life
“ with patience and resignation, or overcome
“ them by the exertion of superior fortitude,
“ are the only persons who reap real advantage
“ from the afflictions to which they are subjected.
“ Remember that man is a sojourner upon earth,
“ a traveller towards paradise, his native home ;
“ and that the joys and sorrows of mortality,
“ when put in competition with that state of end-
“ less happiness or misery which shall succeed
“ the present, is as the drop of the bucket,
“ compared with the river Ganges, which rolls
“ its majestic course through the plains of In-
“ dostan, or the scanty rill that refreshes some
“ verdant meadow, compared with the immense
“ ocean that fixes the boundaries of kingdoms
“ and incircles the habitable world.”

As he spoke the angel of instruction impressed
“ the truths he delivered on the minds of his
“ guests. Rhedi returned to his cell in peace,
“ and Amur, Almerine, and Mouli, with
“ minds composed into resignation and tran-
“ quillity, took their way through the wilder-
“ nesses of Ararat.

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